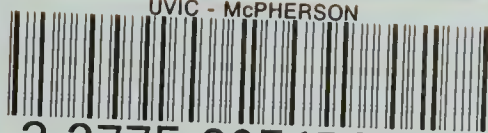


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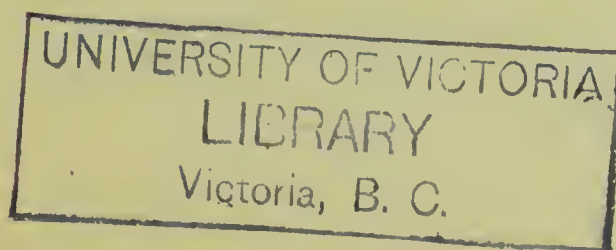
The
Canadian Club
of Vancouver



Addresses and Proceedings
1914 - 1917

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assist him in an advisory capacity in the preparation of the volume. This explains the few weeks' delay in its appearance.

We desire, in closing, to pay a tribute to the late Mr. Fripp. The Vancouver Canadian Club for many years could boast of no more devoted and enthusiastic member, and the city lost, in his passing, a public spirited citizen and a most charming personality.

W. H. VANCE

R. S. SOMERVILLE

Vancouver, March, 1918.



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that the work of securing and conserving a high standard of physical fitness in Canada meant going further than merely dealing with remedial measures affecting sanitation and preventable diseases. The large proportion of deaths in Canada due to preventable diseases—40,000 in every 100,000—the increasing growth of cities and towns, and the growing evils of crowded slum areas in manufacturing centres has brought home the conviction that the time has come for some action to be taken to secure better housing conditions and to control the future development of our cities. Even in our comparatively new cities overcrowding has begun and the evils of haphazard development are already apparent. In dealing with this problem we have to provide not only for the remedy of the evils already created but for the prevention of similar evils in future. Britain has had to face serious difficulties in its cities in trying to get rid of its slums, and this work has involved enormous public expense in past years. In the process of improving the existing sanitary and housing conditions long experience in Britain has taught that it was insufficient to limit the action of government to remedial measures alone. It has been found that you must proceed simultaneously with schemes for the proper control of development of unbuilt upon land so as to prevent overcrowding and slum conditions in respect to areas to be built on in the future.

“While it is desirable to promote schemes for civic centres or the laying out of parks, and while these things are needed when you have reached the stage of growth which you have attained in Vancouver, the primary and essential things are not civic centres and parks but the development of the business of the city, provision for the efficient carrying on of industry and the building up of a healthy home life.

“A city grows, or rather artificially expands, as the result of the concentration of business in a particular neighborhood. The development of Vancouver has taken place by reason of its fine harbour and the linking up of the rail-

way system of Canada with the Pacific Coast. Businesses of many kinds have become established; factories have been erected and people have concentrated together for purposes which can only be efficiently carried on in a city. Agriculture only requires detached homesteads, perhaps miles apart from each other, but manufacture and distribution of goods require concentration in a small area, and this concentration needs to be controlled by means of adequate sanitary regulations and a proper plan—if it is to be healthy.

“I do not think we have quite realized in Canada how important it is to provide proper housing conditions for the people merely as a matter of business. Sir William Lever, the great soap manufacturer, has built a model village for his workers at Port Sunlight, and he has stated, although the houses he provided did not realize a full return on his investment, the village was really a paying proposition because each of the men who lived in it was worth a dollar per week more to him than if he lived in a crowded slum. Messrs. Cadbury have had the same experience at Bourneville near Birmingham. In Canada we recognize the value of human fitness when we set up a certain standard of physique and mental capacity under the immigration regulations. That is all very well, but what do we do to secure the maintenance of that health and efficiency once the immigrants have settled in our cities? Many come direct to the cities and others who come ostensibly to take up agricultural pursuits really come to join the city crowd of unskilled workers. It is necessary to have a constructive scheme of town planning working side by side with efficient housing and public health legislation. The preparation of such a scheme for Vancouver is necessary not only for purposes of business and health, but in order that the city may develop with proper regard to economy and with some regard to the beautiful site and surroundings in which it has the good fortune to be placed.

“You are to be congratulated in having a body of pub-

lie men who have found the time and means to promote interest in the creation of a civic centre. It is not too early to consider where such a centre should be placed, and to earmark and acquire the land for the purpose while it is yet time to do so at reasonable cost. It is unnecessary to proceed with building now when perhaps there are difficulties in obtaining large funds, but it is surely the proper thing to look ahead, to select the land, to prepare the scheme and to gradually carry it out as you find opportunity. If only for the purpose of directing public attention to the planning of your city, and to the advantages of exercising foresight, the work done in connection with the civic centre will prove of value.

“Progress in connection with housing and town planning has been very pronounced in Great Britain in recent years. In England alone there are at present about 200 local authorities engaged, in different stages, in preparing town planning schemes, and over 95 may be regarded as having definitely committed themselves to proceeding with their schemes. It is interesting to consider what each of these schemes may include, and I cannot do better than tell you something of the scheme which has been completed at Ruislip, near London. That scheme deals with an area of nearly 6,000 acres, or about 9.5 square miles of land. The local authority has an income of only \$1000 a year, and yet it has secured from the English Parliament an Act which enables it to properly control the development of its area for the next 100 years. Under that scheme, or Act, it has determined the lines of main traffic routes through the area sufficient to satisfy the traffic requirements of the future. The scheme does not fix the details of estate development lying between these main routes; as to attempt to do so would be to enter into details which no man can determine any long period in advance.

“There are certain things in connection with the future building up of our cities which can be settled beforehand without injury to the community and owners of land, but

there are other things, such as the minute details of street development in connection with small subdivisions, which cannot be settled with any accuracy until the land is nearly ripe for development. So, under a town planning scheme, certain things are fixed which we know can be settled—for instance, the position of open spaces, the main lines of traffic, the general position and location of railway stations, the areas suitable and adaptable for factory purposes, areas for residential purposes, building lines on main streets, etc. Other things can only be determined on general principle as, for instance, the fixing of building lines on narrow streets. Without actually placing these lines on the map you can provide in the scheme that under certain conditions a building line shall be so many feet from the road boundary, and under other conditions, it shall be so many feet more or less from the same boundary.

“It is just as necessary to prepare plans for our cities as for our factories and our houses. The work is more difficult certainly, because in a city we have something which has no definite and fixed proportions; it contains elements of growth which have to be provided for in the design. That is one reason why the plan must not be too rigid or attempt to deal with small matters of detail that cannot be accurately determined in advance. It must be elastic and capable of variation as circumstances and conditions alter. Schemes are sometimes prepared which presume to fix minor details for fifty years ahead, and which are necessarily prepared without any estimate of cost, a matter which is left to look after itself. Such schemes are often as futile as they are visionary and expensive. In Canada we ought to have our town planning carried on with due regard to what is practicable without disregarding our ideals and principles.

“This is a good time for Vancouver to deal with this problem. At present it is free from feverish speculation in real estate, and it is best to prepare the plan during a period when the prices of land are not subject to great fluctuations. Vancouver will almost certainly become one of the largest

cities in Canada, and you—its citizens—have a right to be proud of the site of your city. It is a site of unique beauty and value, and your task is not so much to create beauty as to preserve it. One of the greatest tasks in face of the cities of the Dominion is to lay the foundation of healthy living conditions for future generations. We have used science and skill to utilize great rivers for water-power; we have planted the prairies and have made them yield abundance of food; we have employed the highest engineering talent to construct great railways and to make the utmost of the natural resources of the Dominion; but we have yet to learn how to solve the problem of housing the common man. The human factor is the most important in industrial equipment; perhaps it is the most neglected. We have to employ the powers, the foresight and the intelligence we apply to business to the work of building up a healthy and efficient race. In proportion as we do that we shall be discharging our trust to future generations.”

SIR SAM HUGHES
— ON —
“Some Aspects of the War.”

(Friday, January 22nd, 1915.)

Major-General, the Hon. Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, was the guest of honor at the Canadian Club luncheon in Dominion Hall, Friday, January 22nd. Dr. J. G. Davidson, president of the Club, occupied the chair.

General Hughes said in part:

“The Chairman made a reference to the depression in trade and the shrinkage of real estate values. These are not confined to this city but are general. The war is partly the cause but the depression had set in before war was declared. Long before the war the clanking of the Kaiser’s sabre and the noise of the Krupp machinery were heard and people knew what they meant. Many business men felt the effect of the German menace long before the beginning of the present struggle. This German autocracy and German tyranny, which have been threatening to do this and that, had been cursing the world, and a state of panic prevailed in all the business centres all over Christendom. The Kaiser and his war party brought on the war which will cause the deaths of millions, but he has gone further and added the butchery of innocent people, and other atrocities outside the pale of recognized warfare.

“The trade depression is bad. Here in the growing west, where your industries have not yet become thoroughly established, you have felt it very seriously; but the trade depression is not confined to this country or to the countries at war, but is being felt all over the world, in neutral nations as well. Here where many industries are not yet firmly established many such institutions must be hanging in the balance owing to the tyranny and ambition of the gentlemen in Berlin.

“You have sent your boys to the front to fight the battle

of freedom, and splendid fellows they are. They will not all come back, thanks to the Kaiser, and His Divine Right belief and autocratic nature. As far as trade is concerned the Militia Department is the only first class industry in Canada today. I speak advisedly. Nearly all the public works are tied up. All our energies and all the money we can spare are being devoted to helping on the war issue as far as possible. We are spending a large amount of money throughout Canada. Before the war broke out our military equipment amounted to little. We had, as all countries have, army contractors to supply the department with what was needed for the Militia, but of course they were not prepared to handle unprecedented orders. When war broke out we tried to distribute our orders for supplies and equipment from the Atlantic to the Pacific as fairly as possible. I met a delegation from your Board of Trade and Manufacturers Association this morning and discussed this very question with them. Your representatives, Messrs. Stevens, Barnard, and Green, had previously brought to my attention the claims of the west in connection with these contracts and I talked it over with the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden. We decided we should help the West all we could reasonably do. We thought it only right to allow a difference in price in favor of western manufacturers to the extent of the freight rate charges from here to the east. This was as far as we could reasonably go. I have asked your Board of Trade to furnish me with an official list of bona fide manufacturers, because I am sorry to say that bogus manufacturers have cropped up and tried to get some of the war contracts. I have opposed and intend to oppose the giving of one dollar to concerns of that kind, but on the other hand the regular, legitimate industries of the country will be helped all we can. Your Board of Trade and Manufacturers Association have agreed to furnish us a list of these firms, and rest assured that British Columbia will be represented fully in trade as in the fighting line. Already many of our

soldiers are wearing boots made in this city and a local firm is supplying a big order of saddles.

“The question is asked by many people, why was German tyranny permitted to grow up? Who was to stop it? The very people who today are loudly praising Great Britain for her defence of liberty and freedom and her support of unfortunate Belgium would have been the first to denounce her if she had attacked Germany. They would have said, Why attack poor innocent Germany? Three years ago I stood in this city—as far from the Kaiser as I could get—and I said in that speech that Germany was steadily preparing for war and the time was fast coming when a halt must be called to her arrogance. Time has vindicated my assertion. It did not need much foresight to see the Kaiser’s object. His overweening personal ambition did not stop to consider the number of lives which would be lost or the terrible loss of property. It must be gratified and he become the ruler of a great European nation stretching from the North Sea to the Aegean Sea. That was the German plan. It was his deliberate plan to seize Denmark, Holland and Belgium and thus secure control of the entire coast line on the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. There was no limit to German dreams and German arrogance. Standing behind Austria, and loudly clanking his sword, the Kaiser stood behind Austria encouraging her in the plan of seizing the Balkan States one by one. The object was to extend German influence and tyranny from the North Sea through to the Aegean and Ionian Seas. Thus fortified they would control the destinies of humanity. For 25 years they had controlled them on land and they thought they could control them on sea.

“I said in Vancouver that Germany had been playing a game to cajole Great Britain into letting her have a free hand in South America where the German wanted to establish German control; in Argentina, in Brazil and even in Mexico. That was a link in their world wide chain of activities. When Great Britain declined to be her catspaw,

and stood by the United States, then she began to seek alliances to thwart us. We are all familiar with the famous telegram sent by the Kaiser to Kruger at the time of the Jamieson Raid, and with Germany's attempt to induce France and Russia to join with her in 1888 and 1889 to rob the British Empire of her colonies and reduce her to the rank of a second class power. France and Russia declined to play the game of Germany. We all remember how she gobbled up a portion of the Samoan Islands but we also know how Australia has retaken that territory and restored it to the British flag. It may not be generally known that Germany compelled Great Britain—and compelled is the correct word—to oblige Queensland to surrender to Germany a large portion of New Guinea, but since the war started Australia did another plucky thing and took it back. The conduct of our Australian brothers, of the New Zealanders, the Hindus, South Africans and of Canadians has given the Kaiser a rude jolt. He expected to find us apathetic if not openly hostile, but he finds us all united and enthusiastic behind the old Mother Country.

“It is a matter of history that M. Delcasse, the great French Foreign Minister, at the time of the Casa Blanca incident in Morocco, was obliged to retire from office at the instance of Germany. Everyone knows today what the Agadir incident meant. Germany wanted to plant a port in the Mediterranean, at Cape Verde, contiguous to her possessions in South Africa, and a half way post to South America. The Germans were getting ready to establish overseas Empires in South America and South Africa. Great Britain stood by her guns on that occasion and made her withdraw. A few years ago Bosnia and Herzegovinia were annexed by Austria while Germany stood by clanking her sword. Russia was not ready at that time to step in and prevent it. This was another great step toward the Aegean and Ionian Seas. For years it was common knowledge among German statesmen, soldiers and sailors, that as soon

as the Kiel Canal was completed Germany would declare war. What is the use of the Kiel Canal? It reduces the striking power of the British fleet by fifty per cent. It gives the German fleet two outlets from the Baltic which therefore requires twice the blockading power to hold in check. I am not blaming Germany for constructing this canal, it was a very proper thing for her to do.

“I can remember hearing Lord Roberts speak on that very subject—and in passing allow me to pay a tribute to that gallant soldier.—He pointed out that it was the view of German statesmen and officers that when the waterway was completed Germany would strike. If the Canal had been completed at the time of the Agadir incident there would have been war then. The Kiel Canal was completed early in July last and war was proclaimed three weeks later.

“The brutal conduct of the Germans in the ruthless destruction of the Belgian people, trade, art and industry has been unsurpassed even by the Indian massacres in the early days in North America. Great Britain never fought in a more righteous cause. If Germany triumphed over the Allies where would Great Britain be? A Yankee lad came up to the camp at Valcartier to enlist. His mother wrote me a letter saying he was only sixteen and too young to go to the war. I sent for the boy and asked him what interest he had in the war and what difference it made to him whether the Allies were beaten or not? He said: “Result not concern me! If the Allies are beaten it will not be long before Germany invades Mexico and South America, and it would not be long before the liberties of the United States would go. I am anxious to fight for the cause of liberty.” That, Sir, is the keynote of the present struggle and the world is behind us.

“As soon as the war broke out we issued a call for 20,000 men. The critics said we could not send 10,000. We sent over 30,000 in the first contingent. I knew the soldiers of this country and I knew we did not have to send hot

air artists about the country trying to get recruits. Several newspapers, who said we could not get 10,000 men urged that they would be sent off in a few weeks. I was bombarded—I might say blackguarded—but I thrive on that—because the men were not rushed off at once. Well within six weeks we had over 30,000 men on their way to England, 1,000 had been sent to Bermuda for garrison duty to relieve the regulars, 10,000 more are doing sentry work in different parts of the country, and 20,000 men have been enrolled in the second contingent.

“Judging from what I have seen here and elsewhere along the line, they are as fine a lot of boys as can be found in the whole, wide world. I saw the boys at Valcartier and a splendid body of men they were, filled with the desire to serve their country.

“I make no apology for the expenditures on the Militia in the Dominion either before or since I have been in office. Throughout my public career, and I have been in the House of Commons for nearly 25 years, I never allowed the Militia to become a party football. When in opposition I sank party differences even sometimes against the wishes of my own party to keep the Militia out of politics. Today we are doing the same thing. As a guarantee we have Duff Stuart running the show in Vancouver. We are going to the front as Canadians, not as Liberals or Conservatives; as Sons of the Empire to do our duty fearlessly in the cause.

“The women’s organizations are doing a splendid service to the country. They are not so lethargic as the men and they give their services free. We find many of the biggest contractors are absolutely square in their dealings with the government and they are anxious to see that the government gets 100 cents value for every dollar. Unfortunately we have some of the opposite kind in this country. We are watching them and if I ever get a chance under martial law it would give me great pleasure to shoot one or two of them. Any man who cheats his country in the preparation of boots and other articles for the soldiers is a traitor and

just as dangerous as any German you can rake up. But the ladies, in season and out of season, have given their services unselfishly. All of our boys who have gone to the war have been given assistance and encouragement by the ladies.

“When the Canadians, Australians, Hindus, New Zealanders and South Africans line up with the boys of the Mother Country, as they will do in Spring, no power in Germany or out of Germany, perfect as their arrangements may be, will be able to stop them. I believe our boys will give an example to the world that will ensure peace for another century and will sound the death knell of tyranny and autocracy which have grown up under the Kaiser.”

LIEUT.-COL. TOBIN

— ON —

“The 29th Battalion.”

(February 15th. 1915.)

Lieut.-Col. H. S. Tobin, commanding the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion, addressed the Canadian Club luncheon in the Hotel Elysium. on February 15th. Mr. A. G. McCandless, vice president of the Club, occupied the chair.

Lieut.-Col. Tobin said in part:

“I am proud to belong to a Vancouver regiment. You all no doubt heard the eulogistic remarks made about the corps by Major General Hughes when he was here recently. The splendid showing of the battalion is not due to my efforts but to every member of the corps. It is the Vancouver spirit. Every man there is prepared to do his little bit for the cause. There was much to be done. You cannot train soldiers in a day, but we have shown the scoffers what we can do. They used to run down the militia and say that all the officers wanted to do was to wear gaudy uniforms. It is perhaps just as well that the opportunity came to show them their mistake. We have not failed in the crisis. Canada mobilized 33,000 men in half the time it took the United States to mobilize 19,000 men on the Mexican border. It takes time to train the militia. I do not mean merely in drill tactics but to be ready for active service under modern conditions. You saw the battalion yesterday and would see that they were well trained. It takes months to train men in discipline and the more intelligent they are the more difficult it is. The intelligent man has been used to managing things for himself and it takes time for him to realize that discipline depends on following the orders of one man. Cohesion of units is the great factor in successful military operations. Each man has to learn to act in conjunction with his fellows and not think for himself.

“We have been in active training for three months and we are much better trained than the first contingent. The comparison is hardly a fair one however because they were not given the same time. I am proud of the number of Canadians in my battalion. We have heard a lot of criticism about the few Canadians who were in the first contingent. It should be borne in mind that only men are taken who are between the ages of 18 and 45. Only 15 per cent of the total Canadian born population is eligible to serve and between these ages there are many females. This reduces the available number much further. In my battalion 26 per cent of the men are Canadian born. I think it is the best record in Canada outside of French Canadian regiments. Of my officers 18 out of the 35 were born in Canada, eight are English, seven are Scotch and one is Welsh.

“Seven of the eighteen Canadian officers are graduates of Kingston Military College. These men have been teaching officers who have not attended the college. Several officers have had previous active service experience and 15 out of the 35 have had more or less training apart from the Militia.”

MAJOR-GENERAL STEELE

— ON —

“Some Reminiscences.”

(Tuesday, March 2nd, 1915.)

A luncheon of the Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Elysium on Tuesday, March 2, when Major General Steele, Inspector-General of the western forces, was the guest of honor. Dr. J. G. Davidson presided.

Major General Steele said in part:

“I am here as inspector-general of the western forces. There was only one inspector-general for a long time and he never came here. It was decided to appoint another one to have supervision over the western country and I was given the position. I have seen much of the western militia and the comparison between present conditions and those which existed when I first saw the west is something marvellous. At the time of the South African War we could with difficulty raise 2,000 men in the western country. There was difficulty in getting a sufficient number of officers. We got some of them from the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and some from the Royal Military College in Kingston. That college has no superior in the Empire and at present there must be in the British army at least 250 R.M.C. men; many of whom are on the eve of becoming general staff officers. No better officers can be found. When I was organizing the Stratheona Horse I got many of them and without them we would have been in a poor position to help the empire. There were only a couple of regiments in Alberta in 1897, but at the present time that province has provided 10,000 officers and men for service at the front. The 10th military district, which comprises Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario as far east as the Great Lakes, had ten units when I took over the charge of it in 1908. I encouraged military officers to take hold, and I suggested to the Dominion

Government that the west required more militia. The suggestion was taken up by the militia council and General MacDonald pressed that assistance and encouragement should be given. The 10th military district had ten units then. At the last parade at Sewell camp there were 45 units represented. When the call came to supply men for the front 7,600 men and officers were taken on for the first contingent, and they went over and are now in France. Alberta and British Columbia, in proportion to population, have done equally as well. The district which I command has trained 22,000 men, a whole army division. Many of the officers have had previous military experience. I like to encourage the officers who will stay with us in peace time. These men have stood the jeers of those who thought the militia was a plaything, and they have done good work. We have made a point of looking after them first and training others. The military school in Winnipeg is kept going and is giving many men a good training. In five or six weeks we had enough to start on. We are not trying to turn out staff officers but men who can handle a unit or a company properly. That is what the men expect their officers to be able to do. They do not expect the officer to be a Kitchener, but a good sound fellow, able to place his men in a good position in battle and to give a good example. That is the best kind of officer and that is the way we have been going at present.

“I have seen all the regiments in Western Canada on my present trip. I have looked into the face of every man and I can say of the men that there has never been a finer lot in the whole history of Canada. All are good, keen fellows. I impressed on them that they must be an honor to the country and to their own families. That is the line I take, that they must be sober, respectable and treat women and children properly. I urged the officers to be kind to their men. By doing so they will only be carrying out the precepts of the British Army, which has always been officered by men kind to the rank and file. At the

time of the Peninsular War there may have been an exception. There had to be severity, but it was not the fault of the officers. There is no officer kinder to his men than the British officer. Therefore he has their love and respect. The officer must be strict and see that duty is done.

“Conditions are far different in Germany. The rank and file in that country are treated with great cruelty by their officers. I have seen German officers strike their men in the face and pull their noses when they were going in a wrong direction. What can you expect when they profess many things which they do not possess, including the far famed kultur? I try to impress on both officers and men that they must act up to the standard of the great British army when they go to the front, and maintain the splendid record set in South Africa. During the South African War there were 400,000 British soldiers engaged, but not one single authenticated case of outrage or cruelty was established. After the war was over I had five years experience in helping to organize the police force, or constabulary, and I never heard of a single outrage in all that time. There was no case of striking the Boers either officers or men, or of insulting women or children. I have seen British columns marching through Boer villages and the women and children sat on their doorsteps and watched the soldiers go by, unafraid.

“That is the way the Canadian soldier has to act. He will be in Belgium, in France, and Germany, and people in other lands may take a different view of the soldier than he really is. Sometimes a man wearing the King’s uniform is seen intoxicated. The same can be said of civilians who are frequently seen in the same condition. In the one case a great deal of unfavorable comment is made, in the other none, because the soldier is more conspicuous. Such instances make the soldier’s comrades very angry because they consider that he has disgraced the corps.

“I have seen your militia both in Victoria and here. They are getting on well and I am sure you will see no

reason to have doubts as to how they will behave. The officers are of the right sort and anxious to make a good showing. Every little town and centre in the province is represented in these battalions. I made it a point in the prairie provinces to have every town get its quota, and not have the lion's share go to the big cities. I asked the colonel commanding at the different points to send me so many officers and men to make up a regiment for the front. If a company were sent I insisted that a captain and two lieutenants be sent with them.

“Among the matters which we must impress on the officers and men is that discipline must be stricter than ever. The men have much to contend with in this war. For one thing the tremendous artillery fire is very nerve racking. It is absolutely necessary to relieve the men in the trenches from time to time and this has been well looked after by Generals Joffre and French. I heard from a prominent officer at the front not long ago, and he said that the arrangement for the comfort of the men had been well looked after. We Anglo-Saxons like to be well fed and the army was never better fed than during the present war. You have an Army Service Corps here and this branch of the force has done excellent work at the front. We have raised a good corps for this purpose. The British Army Service Corps is the best ever sent to war. The transport system used to break down in the old days. Often the food supply was not ready and the men often went two days without a morsel. The men could do it again if necessary, but it is not right to expose the men to hardships of the kind. Now the Army Service Corps provides meals right up to the trenches if required and looks after every want. The transport system is up to date and everything is going as smoothly as possible.

“Many of our men were from the Old Country originally and I would impress on them when they get to England not to be in too great hurry to see their friends. When the proper organization is completed is time enough to go to

see their parents. Duty comes first. The British army has done its duty from the first and has made some great stands under awful conditions. The men did not fail in these circumstances. It rests on the officers to impress the necessity of discipline and duty on their men. If the officers do not know their duties they will fail. Every officer should know every man in the ranks. He should know about his private affairs and interest himself in them. By this means he will get his confidence so that the man will tell him his troubles. The organization will be strengthened if the officer gets the affection of the men because he will get the best out of them. The officer must be stern but kindly and I may say that in the army many kind hearts beat under stern exteriors.

“General Kitchener is a shining example. The popular impression fostered by the newspaper articles is that he is stern and hard. Instead he is one of the most kindly and genial of men. There is no man in the Empire who has been nearer to him than myself, except his staff officers. I had orders direct from his own lips for six months during the Boer War and I want to say that there is not a pleasanter or more genial officer in the world than Lord Kitchener. We find the same thing in the Canadian Pacific Railway. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy is a kindly man, but he wants the work done and sees that it is done, too. He takes up a map and says, ‘I want that piece of road built.’ I would take a force of 2,000 men and carry out a certain order from Lord Kitchener and when that work was done he would give me more. Perhaps we would go to dinner together that night. He used to have the old Bishop in Pretoria in to dinner often and he would keep him in roars of laughter. Many a young officer would try to pull Lord Kitchener’s leg, but it generally turned out at his own expense.

“I have little more to say. I have soldiered from Toronto to here for 44 years. I have travelled on a dog sled and I used to sort letters before there were postal facilities

as a young non-commissioned officer. The nearest railway to the west in the early days was at Collingwood. I arrived at Fort Garry on August 29, 1870, when I came out with the Red River Expedition. On that trip we made 50 miles a day. I did sentry-go at the old fort when Sir Donald Smith gave his first banquet there. I was on the guard of honor at the opening of the first Parliament in Manitoba and I also commanded the first detachment of Canadian permanent soldiers stationed in Toronto. During my long experience I have contrived to make a lot of friends. I have always tried to do my best. I believe I succeeded because everyone was so kind. While on my present trip every old soldier I knew has come to call on me."

MR. J. M. DENT

— ON —

“The Spirit of England.”

(Monday, May 3rd, 1915.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Elysium on Monday, May 3, when Mr. J. M. Dent, of Messrs. J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., London, England, a well-known publishing firm, was the guest of honor. Mr. A. G. McCandless presided.

Mr. Dent said in part:

“ I was going to talk to you about the state of England during this great war. I do not know that I can tell you anything very new, but I can tell you something of what I have observed in my own experience. To tell you how the war has affected England is not very difficult because I have lived through it all and I remember very vividly when the first whispers came that there was likely to be an outbreak. As you know the first Monday in August in England is a Bank Holiday. People go away to the seaside then. There was a great exodus from London on that day. On the Friday before we heard the news there was a strong article in one of the papers denouncing the very idea of war. It pleaded strongly with the government and begged them to consider all that would happen. Germany, it was pointed out, was our greatest customer, the strongest nation, nearer to us in point of relationship than France and so on. Saturday came and the tension grew greater. I cannot tell you what it felt like. There was no rowdyism, no cheering, no disturbance. People were tense, silent, fearful—not fearful in the sense of being afraid but fearful of what the world appeared to be coming to. Then Monday came and even the children were quiet at the seaside, waiting with bated breath, waiting for anything that might come from London. Then we heard the story of the scrap of paper and immed-

lately there was a change. A strong determined resolution came over the country. Never have I been so proud of my country as in the declaration of Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons on that notable occasion. (Applause.) Never have I been prouder of Canada than when the reply came that you were to bear your part without fear and trembling as to the consequences, whatever they might be. People in England took the thing very quietly, but very strongly. All the recruiting stations soon had queues of men before them—men waiting to enlist. At Charing Cross the queues were so long that they extended right down to the Strand. All were quiet; there was no rowdyism, no bands, no flags flying or waving, but there was a great determination of men who realized all the consequences. At Christmas I was at Oxford and visited three of the Colleges there. At Balliol (the premier college of Oxford and the largest) where I was accustomed to see three long tables right down the room filled with students and the head table filled with dons, I found instead two of the long tables occupied by soldiers who had been billeted on the great college. At the third table were all the men that had been left to take the term—about one-third of the usual number. The same story applied to University College and New College.

“Some people seem to think that we are not in earnest about this war in England. Gentlemen, if you came over to see the country and went from little town to little town and saw the thousands of men billeted in sleepy old cathedral towns—if you saw a town like Bedford—the town where John Bunyan used to preach, filled with 60,000 soldiers you would know. You do not see this kind of thing in London, but in the little country places where men have room to drill in. (Applause.)

“I motored from town to town for I had two boys in the war and I had to see them. There was still the same quiet resolution and strong determination everywhere. The army of England today, as you know, is made up of the best blood the nation can produce. (Applause.) Students from

the colleges, laborers from the field, clergymen, architects—all the professions fighting alongside their comrades from the workhouse and from the mine. My two boys are there, both of them university men, fighting as privates—I hope they will remain so, for I do not like the idea of a commission because one happens to have a little more education. (Applause.) I could tell you many stories of the fine patriotism that has been shown and I know you can tell me the same of Canada. The young men who have offered themselves are the finest young men I know. One I know had a fine career opening before him and had won a scholarship at Oxford. When the war broke out he threw all aside and went away to the war. I asked him “Why?” and he said: “I could not shame the old man.” Another was the case of a young medical man who had gone through his course and had taken high place in the hospitals. He had bought a partnership in a practice, spent his money and begun his work. He threw it all up and went to the war. Another case still was that of a workman I had. A new machine had just come from America which he alone could work properly. He had been taught to work it by an expert who was sent over specially for the purpose—an expert from America. The workman knew that if he went to the war our factory would largely stop. He, therefore, remained at work week after week and you could see that he was getting restless. He did not want to be disloyal to the firm but the war was calling him. At last he felt that he really must go. He would work night and day, he said, to teach someone how to manage the machine. He did so and went. These are just some examples just to show you how the war has been taken by high and low, by rich and poor. Gentlemen, you cannot conquer such armies as those. (Applause.)

“One great joy came to me on another occasion. I happen to be the publisher of Mr. Joseph Conrad’s novels. Mr. Conrad came as an alien to England and has taken it to his heart and loved it with a great passion ever since. He was regretting in my office one day that he could not send two

boys to the war as I had done—his children being too young—when I said that we could not be proud of our nation all round. He said: ‘You must not say that. England is the only country, nation or Empire that holds up an ideal before the world.’

“I feel that that is true. I believe that in our hearts with all our frivolities and foolishness we have at times displayed, we feel that England has one clear course before her, and that is the cause of freedom and truth. (Applause.) We stand like no other nation does for freedom. We, you, we all, a happy band of brothers in a great empire, stand for freedom as no other nation has ever done. Eight hundred years ago freedom was born in the British Isles and it has grown and widened over the seas.

“I want you to remember that this war is a very solemn one and one waged for freedom and idealism. I cannot allow the opportunity to pass without saying one word about Sir Oliver Lodge, a friend of mine. I asked him ‘You have been declaring that the future life of the human race has been proved as a scientific fact. If that is so, and you believe it, what have you to say to this awful war?’ He said: ‘I have been exercising my mind deeply on that important subject. I believe that the cause of the whole mischief in Germany is that she has misinterpreted Darwinism, and all the trouble is due to that. Darwinism is only flesh and blood, physical force, the will-to-power, and she has forgotten that Darwinism means also the evolution of the soul as well as the body.’ All that has been forgotten by Germany and she thinks that by physical force she can conquer the world. Things are not gained by physical force in this world, much as physical force may have done for England. We do not believe in conscription in our great Empire.

‘There is a little quotation by a well-known German—at least they claim him as such. They call him Mr. William Shakespeare (laughter) and I shall close with it. This England (and by England it means the Dominions over the seas also):

“This England never did nor never shall
Lie at the proud feet of a conqueror;
Comes the whole world in arms
There’s nought can make us rue,
If England to herself do prove but true.”
(Applause).

MR. J. A. FARRELL

— ON —

“Big Business.”

(Friday, May 7th, 1915.)

A luncheon of the Canadian Club was held on Friday, May 7th, at the Hotel Elysium, Dr. Davidson being in the chair. The guest of honor was Mr. J. A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel Corporation.

Mr. Farrell said in part: “I am making my first visit to Vancouver. I have travelled the world over pretty generally and now I find that I have left the best part of it to the last. (Laughter and applause.) I think I may say that I have imbibed the spirit of this club. Looking around the faces at these tables and having made the acquaintance of many of the gentlemen of the club this morning I find that your interests are diversified and that you are fully alive to the interests of your community. That, gentlemen, is the spirit that should actuate all of us wherever we are located. In travelling over the country as I have done leisurely from Winnipeg here, I was very much impressed with the possibilities of this western country and also with the optimistic spirit which seems to prevail in so many localities where I visited concerning the future of Canada and the hopefulness concerning the crops, which, after all, are the basic element in the prosperity of any nation.

“In the United States we have been going through a period of depression and repression for the last two or three years. The conditions, however, are gradually readjusting themselves and business during the last few months has shown a marked improvement. Speaking of the steel industry with which I am most familiar, the operations of the steel works of the United States are now on a basis of about 70 per cent. of their capacity as compared with 35 per cent. in January last, and of 30 per cent. in the last three months

of last year. The iron and steel business has been said to be the barometer of trade, and it has in the past shown itself to be so. We are looking forward with hopefulness to better business conditions. There is a tendency also on the part of those in governmental authority to deal less harshly with what is known as Big Business. Business whether large or small is, as we all know, necessary to the life of any country, and if business, large or small, is conducted properly it should be a valuable element in the building-up of a country. It is gradually becoming recognized in the United States that from an economic standpoint, as far as the development of a country is concerned, it is necessary to consider Big Business as a part of the system of the country that concerns its development.

“Naturally, there is a warm feeling in the United States for Canada, and I am happy to say I have always found the same feeling reciprocated during my travels in Canada. (Applause). In British Columbia you have a great country and a fine climate, if this is a sample of it (laughter), and I am told it is. Your minerals and your lumber interests and your other diversified interests are on a large scale. You have also in this part of the country all the characteristics of Big Business. I have travelled over one of the greatest railway systems in the world, the Canadian Pacific. Your electric power and other large industries are also notable. I doubt the propriety of giving you advice, but it would seem to me that if you are going to be successful in this country you must encourage these large enterprises.”

DR. CHARLES SAROLEA

— ON —

“Suffering Belgium.”

(May 27th, 1915.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in Dominion Hall on May 27, when Dr. Charles Sarolea, a distinguished Belgian author, war correspondent and literateur, was the guest of honor. Mr. A. G. McCandless presided.

Dr. Sarolea said in part: “A few months ago I had the honor to be sent by the Belgian government to lay the Belgian case before the American people. It was no part of my duty to come to Canada, but in coming to Canada I do not consider that I am performing a duty. I simply could not resist the temptation (applause). And it has given me an opportunity of addressing a gathering in one of the fairest and most striking cities in the British Empire. Your president reminded you a few moments ago that until nine months ago Belgium was a small country, unknown certainly to the vast majority in this audience. Belgium was a little speck almost invisible on a large scale map of Europe. You will all agree with me that that little speck today bulks as largely in the imagination and in the sympathies of Canadians (applause) as any mighty empire (hear, hear). You may perhaps think that little Belgium is sharing the fate of many great men who only become great and illustrious after they are dead. For Belgium today is politically dead. Even that little speck that I have referred to has been blotted from the political map of Europe. We have a government without a people, or a people without a government, if you prefer it. We have a King without a kingdom (A voice—“He will have it again.” applause). But we trust that the King with the help of his little army, with the help of the Canadian army, with the help of the

British army and with the help of the French, will soon recreate and restore his kingdom. (Loud applause). We Belgians are convinced that from the ruin of our country a greater and nobler Belgium will emerge. (applause). Not only has Belgium become greater in the imagination of men, it has also become much nearer to Canada, I think, without even speaking on the lower level of commercial or economic relations, for in the near future Belgium will send a considerable part of her population to Canada—and this will not be an unmixed blessing nor an unmixed evil—I think that in quite a different sense Belgium is coming nearer to Canada. Canada can boast of as stirring and as inspiring a history as any of the great nations of Europe. As far as I remember in my student days, I have been familiar with the romantic episodes of your early history in the pages of Francis Parkman, but no chapter in the romance of Canadian colonization and empire-building can compare in inspiring interest with that significant chapter your Canadian army is now writing in Belgium. (Applause.)

“For a hundred years, generation after generation of Britishers have gone on a pilgrimage to the plains of Waterloo to worship the spot where just a hundred years ago British heroes died. Future generations of Canadians will also repair to Belgium—to another part of Belgium, the marshes of Flanders and the banks of the Yser—to worship the spot where Canadian heroes died, with their Belgian brothers, in the cause of liberty and civilization. (Loud applause).

“We are now beginning to realize how tremendous is the task in front of us. This war of the nations is unparalleled not merely in magnitude but also in duration, in loss of life and cost in money. If we want to understand this war we must try to forget whatever we have read in the past about the wars of old. Even the battles of the Franco-German war, the battles of Napoleon, the Peninsular campaign, were more different from this war than those battles were from the war of the Red Indians. The battles of Molt-

ke and of Napoleon were localized in time and space. A battle then started at dawn and finished at dusk. A campaign was fought in a few weeks and the decision was generally reached by a few bold strokes. Even the most momentous of Napoleon's campaigns did not exceed in duration two or three months. The Franco-German war, perhaps the most fatal war of modern times, was practically concluded in three weeks, and we know full well that in the hopes of the German General Staff, the present war would be over in even shorter time.

“While our war of the nations of today bears no relation to the wars of old, entirely new factors have been introduced which have revolutionized them. First of all I need not remind you of the factor of numbers. At present some 25,000,000 young men are being diverted in Europe and other parts of the world from productive labor and are engaged in battle or training for it. The greatest battle of the nineteenth century was fought with a total contingent of 170,000 men. That a hundred years ago means 25,000,000 today. These huge numbers, these millions of soldiers confronting each other in the theatre of operations, mean an infinitely extended battle-front. Instead of a total front of a few miles we have a battle-front of 400 miles in Belgium and France and of thousands of miles in Russia and Galicia. These millions cannot move quickly; they cannot fight in co-ordination. As a matter of fact the battle-field of old has ceased to exist. There are not battle-fields as there is no strategy.

In the classical sense strategy means the co-ordination and simultaneous movements of troops—all parts of the armies working together in solidarity towards the common end. Today at one end of the line one extreme of the army does not know sometimes what the other end is doing. A battle instead of being fought in 48 hours is fought today in as many weeks. Some battles have now lasted for six or seven months and whereas the battles of old always reached their termination and came to a decision after a

short time, today, even after six months, the campaign remains undecided.

“Then consider the influence of that other factor, the formidable progress of the science of destruction. The long-range artillery has also revolutionized the methods of warfare. Most soldiers today are fighting an invisible enemy. I have been present myself at some of the decisive battles in Belgium in August and September and although I have helped to bury hundreds of Germans, and although I have seen thousands of German prisoners, and although I have been in the line of battle, I have never been able to see a German soldier fighting. Once I tried to see the Germans emerge near Louvain. With other war correspondents, I stayed until the last Belgian had retreated, as we had a fast motorcar to take us back. But we were not able to see a German even then. Not only the long-distance range of the artillery but the extraordinary progress in the science of destruction has made it almost impossible for an army to move as in the past in close formation or in serried ranks. Today, owing to the artillery fire, the army is compelled to deploy—to advance in very loose formation—a formation which is so loose that the unit—the individual private soldier, must be largely left to his own device and must work and move for himself. War today is becoming less and less offensive and more and more defensive. Even those strongholds which were the pride of the military engineers—Liege, Namur and Maubeuge—could not possibly resist the heavy siege guns which were brought to bear against them. Liege could not have resisted 48 hours if the Germans had had time to bring forward their heavy siege guns, because it takes a few days to bring them forward and this time the Belgians did their best to utilize (applause). Even strongholds, however strong, have become out of date; and this war has become a war of trenches, a war of defensive obstacles, a river war; whereas in the old days wars were fought in the plains or in the mountains as in the Peninsular war. The wars of today are fought mainly

behind rivers, as in the case of the Aisne and the Marne, the Bzura and the Vistula. Strategy has become a defence or a series of defences against a screen of natural or artificial obstacles. This war is therefore so protracted and so costly.

“Before the Germans are driven out of Belgium we must be prepared for the sacrifices of a good many hundred thousands of the flower of the manhood of the world. We must be prepared for another campaign of very long duration. You have heard a great deal of the sufferings of Belgium. You may think that so far as these atrocities are concerned, the slaughter of our inhabitants—you may think that the worst is over. The worst is over so far as the Allies are concerned. We shall never again pass through the anxiety and anguish which we went through last August and September, when the German hordes swept like an irresistible tide through Flanders and France, when the future of our civilization was at stake.

“The worst is over for the Allies but the worst is still to come for Belgium. When the victorious armies of the Allies drive the Germans out of France, as certainly they will before long—(applause)—they will drive the German hordes into Belgium and until the end Belgium will be the main theatre of operations. Just consider what that means. It means that every victory of the Allies will have to be paid for by additional suffering on the part of the Belgian people—by additional destruction. Every blow aimed at Germany in the near future will be a blow at Belgium. The Allies can only get at Germany by passing over the prostrate body of Belgium. We shudder to think what Belgium will have to go through for the next few months. Only a few days ago I was informed that a Belgian home to which I was very much attached, and where for 20 years I had spent my summers—had been shattered by the guns of British ships. The pathos of the situation for the next few months will be this, that most of the work of destruction will have to be done by the Belgians themselves.

by the British and the French. Even the little Belgian army still fighting in Flanders will spare no effort to destroy their own cities if by doing so they can get rid of the unspeakable Hun.

“But alas! we are not merely fighting a formidable military machine; our soldiers have not merely to wage a long and costly war which calls for much more patience and a stronger courage than of old, but also we have to fight behind that military machine’s tremendous moral forces. We have to confront the driving power of German fanaticism and German enthusiasm. Their fanaticism is even more concentrated than ours. This war is to me a great mystery. After long and careful thought it is even today unexplained. It is a mystery that a great nation which proclaimed itself civilized, and which in many ways was civilized, which was supreme in music and which was great in art and in science—it is a mystery that such a nation should be guilty of the awful crime of plunging the world into this awful war. But it is a greater mystery that the best and greatest citizens of that country—and there have been noble citizens even in Germany—should today, after nine months of crimes, be unanimous accomplices in this crime. This crime has not only called forth and obsessed the most cruel instincts of human nature—of German nature, but also some of the finest qualities of the spirit of iron discipline. Because, let us be under no delusion, the Germans today are still animated with the spirit of those virtues. They are as convinced as we are that they are fighting in a just cause. That is what makes our military task so much more difficult. I have been for the last few months concerned with trying to understand the German situation—with trying to look at the problem from the German point of view. I have tried to fathom the German tragedy which is so little understood at present and which is so much less inspiring than the Belgian tragedy. After thinking over this tragedy I have come to the conclusion that there is only one explanation and that is that the

German people today are politically insane,—that the whole of Germany in a political sense today is one vast lunatic asylum. This is not merely a metaphor—a paradox. In stating this conclusion I am stating a scientific fact. Groups of men are subject to mental insanity like individuals. Insanity is characterized by the same facts, caused by the same motives—in the prevalence of certain fixed ideas—what the pathologists call monomania.

“The Germans have tried to convince other nations of their superiority, and not succeeding they have assumed that the British were organizing a conspiracy against them. Thence they have passed to the delusion of persecution, have brooded over their grievances. Two of those grievances are that Britain has taken Germany’s place in the sun, and that Britain has taken Germany’s colonies,—has taken Canada from Germany for instance, for Canada ought to belong to Germany; Great Britain has taken Germany’s commerce. Madmen are infinitely proud and infinitely ungrateful, and the German madman has forgotten in his ingratitude that German international commerce could never have been developed but for the sunshine of British free trade. Having become convinced that they were suffering from a conspiracy on the part of the Anglo-Saxon races the Germans have naturally become aggressive. Having a great army they have passed to the delirium of violence. Germany is now in the midst of that homicidal mania which has taken such evil forms as have never before appeared in history. It has ranged from the slaughter and destruction of the Belgian people and cities to the sinking of the passengers of the *Lusitania*.

“I think I may prophesy with confidence that before many months have passed the German madman, after having turned his impotent rage, after having turned his homicidal mania against the civilized world, will turn it against his own self, and this war of the nations, having begun with the invasion of Belgium and France, will end with a revolution in Germany and the destruction of their cursed military empire of the Hohenzollerns.” (Applause).

MR. HARRY E. BRITTAIN

— ON —

“The Royal Colonial Institute and the War.”

(July 9th, 1915.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver on July the 9th, when Mr. Harry E. Brittain addressed the members. Mr. A. G. McCandless, vice president, presided.

Mr. Brittain is a member of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, and one of the Founders with Lord Roberts of the Pilgrims Club, of which he is Chairman of the British section.

Mr. Brittain said in part: “During the past few months I have been engaged on a series of interesting missions in the United States, and I managed to keep South of the line until I reached the Pacific Coast. But the magnetic pull of British Columbia proved to be too strong and last night I found myself once again on British Soil.

“It is now some four years since I was in British Columbia when I had the pleasure of making a trip with your Premier, Sir Richard McBride, together with one or two of his friends and colleagues, through the heart of what is known, I believe, as the New B. C. I had nothing to do with it, gentlemen, but I arrived here right on the top of the boom (laughter). I have no doubt you will remember how, at about that period, the mercury on the “boom barometer” had risen almost above “boosting” point, and naturally our entire conversation was in superlatives. From Ashcroft we went North by the Old Cariboo Road as far as our machines could take us, through a series of delightful villages each of which called itself a City and intimated in no uncertain words that it was going to be the Greatest City on God’s Earth!

“We visited Fort George. There were three Fort

George's at that time, each one loudly claiming to be the Chief of the Trinity. There was also much indignation displayed towards one of the Toronto papers which apparently had been suggesting that there was no such place as Fort George, and even if there were it didn't amount to very much. In his wrath the Editor of the local paper, which made its first appearance the day of our arrival, girded up his loins and replied thuswise to the critic: "We don't give a tinker's damn for the seven-day opinion of the half-boiled lobster down East. We mean to be a Bull-Dog if we only live a minute." (Laughter.)

"When I sailed for America at the end of last April I made the journey on board that splendid ocean greyhound, the *Lusitania*; the last she was ever destined to make to the City of New York. It has seemed good to the German Emperor to confer the Order of Merit upon the "gallant" Captain who sank this defenceless liner. Gentlemen, it is my sincere conviction that the memory of that dastard's deed will cling for all time to the German's name as utterly and completely as does the brand to Cain. (Applause).

"Through the great country to the south of us I have made a journey of some six thousand miles, and I must say that it has been very gratifying to me as a Britisher to find that the heart of the mighty Republic is with us and that we have the sympathy of all whose sympathy is worth the having. (Applause.) And although there may arise from time to time certain differences of opinion and things be said and done which we do not quite approve, do not let us hastily condemn these actions as the actions of an entire people. For if we do we are simply playing the German game as most desired by the pro-German minority. Let us rather encourage our real good friends—and we have many—who are with us heart and soul, and who are doing all that in them lies for the Cause of the Allies.

"We are engaged at the present moment in a mighty struggle; but a mighty struggle has never terrified the British Race. In our history of a thousand years we have

met and overcome more than one tyrant who set out to crush mankind. The Lion's breed which scorned to bend the knee before the onslaughts of Phillip of Spain, and the great Napoleon, is not to be shaken by all the myriad hosts of William of Hohenzollern.

“Of the interesting work which has been given me in connection with the War there is none which I have appreciated more than that which fell to my lot after I had experienced the great privilege of being nominated as almost the solitary Englishman to serve on the Executive Committee of the Canadian War Contingent Association. Together with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. G. Colmer, of whose services it is impossible to speak too highly, I was selected by that Committee for the specific purpose of looking after the gallant lads of your first Contingent when they arrived, and I shall never forget the last week-end I spent with them on English soil.

“With Lord Grey I went down to Devizes at the invitation of the Brigadier and Officers of the Canadian Artillery, and on that Sunday morning we joined them in the farewell Church Service at the grand old Norman shrine.

“Side by side beneath the tattered Battle Flags of glorious days bygone, we looked upon the keen young faces of Canada's stalwart Sons, who had given up all to come and help the Motherland in the fight for her liberty and theirs.

“One of the many memories of the beginning of this War is that of a conversation with a dear old friend of mine, the late Field Marshal Lord Roberts, one of the finest men who ever wore a British uniform.

“I had the pleasure of dining with him two days before he left England on his last journey to France, and again and again he told me how much he appreciated the privilege of being appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the splendid troops from Overseas, and how he looked forward to the days he hoped to spend amongst them. A little incident that I do not think has ever been made public is one

of many which could be told, showing the wonderfully kind nature of the great soldier. When he was over in France he desired to see something of the effect at close quarters of the bursting German shells. For this purpose he went forward in a car which happened to be driven by a friend of mine. This friend in telling me the story said he drove Lord Roberts to a high point on a range of hills from which they could look down upon a little French village which was quite deserted and under heavy fire from German artillery. The car stopped on the top of the hill and Lord Roberts said "I think I would like to go a little further, so Major X of course proceeded forward with the intention of starting to drive down the hill. Lord Roberts stopped him and got out of the car. X at once prepared to follow but Lord Roberts said quietly "I think it is a little dangerous, I shall go down alone." He went on, remained in the village a quarter of an hour, saw what he wanted and then slowly walked back to the car. He would not unnecessarily lead another man into danger.

"In this amazing War Germany has experienced many a surprise, but I think it is safe to say nothing upset her calculations, at its outbreak, more than the way in which countless offers of help immediately poured in from every section of His Majesty's Dominions, and from all our Kinsmen domiciled in Foreign Lands.

"During those thrilling days of August 1914 hardly an hour passed without its inspiring and spontaneous offerings of men and treasure which made us feel as if we were one in a way that nothing in our history had ever done before.

"What could have been finer than General Botha's message? "Withdraw all your Imperial Troops. We will look after the interests of the Empire in this part of the world." (Applause).

"All the German 'frightfulness,' all the high explosives and poison gas has failed to upset the imperturbability of the British Tommy and the British Tar. Innum-

able are the stories one hears in this connection. One little incident was mentined to me quite recently by Lord Charles Beresford, who was down at Sheerness with other well-known Naval officers inspecting a cruiser which had just taken part in a scrap on the North Sea. They were informed that one shell had gone right through the galley without doing material damage, and went below to inspect. On learning that the cook had been in the galley at the time, Lord Charles asked to see him, and in accordance with his request, the cook, a sturdy solid Yorkshireman, duly appeared. "Well Smith," said the Admiral, "what were you doing exactly when the shell came through there?" "Ah war peelin' pertataas fur 't officers' dinner" was the reply in broad Yorkshire. "You were" said Lord Charles, "and what did you do after the shell had gone through?" "Eh, ah finished pertataas!" was the response (laughter). "Didn't it worry you a little," continued Lord Charles "Noa" said the man, "I canna say as it did, peraps for 'afe a minit ah felt a bit sweaty-loike." (laughter).

"In this mighty Imperial Army of ours, men of every type and every position are to be found in the ranks, and you cannot by means of stripes and stars begin to make the right kind of guess as to the ordinary social status of our stalwart volunteers.

"Of the great unofficial bodies to which we owe so much I know of none which has done a finer work, and particularly during these stormy times, than the Royal Colonial Institute. As the Chairman stated I enjoy the privilege of being a member of its Council, and am an immense believer in its present efficiency and future possibilities.

"For the benefit of those in this great gathering who are not already Fellows, may I attempt to outline in as few words as I can what the Institute stands for.

"The R.C.I. is the Mecca of Britishers from Overseas: it is a Club, an Institute, an Information Bureau and many other things combined.

“Our headquarters are situated in the heart of London, just off Trafalgar Square. Here we have the greatest Colonial Library in the world, together with a supply of over nine hundred daily and weekly papers from every part of the Empire. Crowded meetings are held every fortnight and addressed by the leading men of the Empire.

“Incidentally I might add that it was at one of these meetings that the first proposal was made for the Annual Celebration of Empire Day.

“Lectures are regularly given on Imperial subjects, and prizes and gold medals offered for essays on research work and Imperial matters; whilst our many thousands of Fellows throughout the world are kept in touch by means of a first rate magazine known as “United Empire”, which acts as a telephonic exchange on Imperial lines, and is by universal consent well worth the overseas subscription to the Institute.

“We have great and flourishing branches throughout the Dominions and Colonies as well as in many other lands.

“Whatever be the results of this War, one thing certainly is as clear as day, and that is a mighty binding together of Britons the world over, and in the threshing out of the myriad details which will arise, a great unofficial Institute of this kind, to which the leading men of the Empire already belong, is invaluable for the purpose of feeling out the way and thereby assisting our Governments in the work which lies before them.

“A better day is dawning, and terrible as are the times through which we are passing, there is, I believe, a feeling at the bottom of the hearts of all of us to whom Imperial ideals appeal, that out of this furnace of strife and suffering a real united Empire may be forged.

“Let it be forged with such eternal bonds that generations yet unborn may look back upon this appalling War, and looking back may realize that the fight was not fought in vain.” (loud applause).

HON. A. L. SIFTON
— ON —
“The Granary of the Empire.”

(October 29th, 1915.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver on October 29th, when Dr Davidson presided over a gathering that met to welcome Hon. A. L. Sifton, the Premier of Alberta. With Premier Sifton there was also present Premier Matheson, of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Sifton said in part: “Most of the thought that I have had during the long period I have been in this western country I have devoted to two lines, to two subjects, and those are the subjects of transportation and population. We have made wonderful strides so far as transportation facilities are concerned during the past forty years. At that time—forty years ago—I spent a short time working on the first hundred miles of railway that ever was built west of Lake Superior. Just forty years ago that work was started. Look at the difference now. We have now 18,000 miles of railway in that same territory. Now, forty years is a short time in the history of a nation, but it is a long stretch in my lifetime.

“We are I think safe in saying that Western Canada now has better facilities in the way of transportation compared with population than any other portion of the civilized world. That is something to be able to say in a new country. But unfortunately for us we have not advanced in the same ratio in regard to population. There may be reasons for it but whatever those reasons may be they should be overcome. There was a very limited population forty years ago in the territory of which I speak—about 50,000 people between the head of Lake Superior and the Pacific ocean. Now we have two millions, but there is no reason why there should not be four millions or even forty

millions so far as the natural resources of the country are concerned. The population of the country could be doubled at the present time, and it would make a wonderful difference because we have transportation facilities to accommodate three or four times the number we have got. The main lines of communication are finished to connect the produce of the country with the tidewater either on the Atlantic or Pacific. We have sufficient railways for that purpose for several years at any rate. It will of course be necessary to increase the branch lines of the service, but so far as the export of the natural products of the country are concerned, we have all the facilities that are needed for getting to tidewater. I am told there are difficulties after getting to tidewater, but these will be done away with probably at no distant date.

“What shall be done in the next forty years in this country in regard to increasing the prosperity of western Canada? More than one million people of the two millions in this territory are living in the towns and cities, and not more than one million are producing the basic necessities of life. In fact not more than half a million, we may say, if we take out of the number those who are not of age to work. The unfortunate thing is that the people of western Canada have commenced at the wrong end in their efforts to increase prosperity. They and their boards of trade have endeavored to increase the size of the cities and towns and afterwards the population of the country. They hoped the country would grow and support these cities and towns; instead of seeing that the 25 per cent of the people that were required to produce the basic industries were first put on the land. If you first do this you cannot keep people out of the cities and towns by any possible means you can imagine. (Applause.) If the half million men and women, and this is an outside estimate of the number working on the land in western Canada, were doubled, the other would double also.

“But by your Boards of Trade and in your newspap-

ers every effort must be made and the people of Canada must be told not indeed to go back to the land, for a great deal of humbug is constantly being talked about such things "as back to the land", but to induce the people on the land in other countries to come here and settle on the land here and increase the fertility of our land and the export of the natural products of the country in that district from the head of Lake Superior to the Pacific ocean. This is a thing that every man in western Canada should bring to the attention of the responsible people to see that effort is made year by year, day by day and hour by hour. It is a business that requires constant effort. People will not come here because they have seen something or heard something about the country. You must make every effort to put our actual conditions before them. When our natural resources are developed there is no danger of the cities or towns not going ahead, no danger of their not securing their natural increment.

"Taking Western Canada as a whole, it produces everything necessary, and by trading amongst itself it could in the course of long years at any rate have achieved prosperity. They have not been satisfied to wait for that. It is necessary, therefore, to see to the credit of the country in order that the people may have the same advantages that people have in other more civilized places—in places where civilization has had a longer time in which to work. The railways in the western part of Canada have cost five hundred millions, the telephones have cost fifty millions, many more uncounted millions have been spent on other things, and it has been to a large extent on borrowed capital—borrowed in the shape of stocks or bonds—so that the credit of this country is one of the things that everyone of us is interested in. In that respect I agree with the financial people of the Dominion of Canada, the managers and presidents of banks, that one of the first claims that everyone has to consider is the credit of the provinces and cities, whether individuals suffer or not. People unfortunately will suffer as

individuals, but the main thing is, notwithstanding, to protect the credit of the municipalities and provinces and the large institutions on which we depend in this country. I disagree with the banks when they make the claim that they are dealing with their own money when they are looking after their banking business, because if you examine one of their monthly statements you will find dollars belonging to the stockholders invested outside of Canada. For that reason I claim that people who do not own bank stock have the right to criticise because the money is the money of the people of Canada and not of the stockholders, and it is being used by the banks.

“When the last crisis came they found they could not draw a dollar from the outside investments—only clearing-house certificates—and so they were compelled to take the money from the people of Canada to support their resources. They say it is absolutely necessary to keep their assets in liquid form in order to make a run on a bank an impossibility. The dangerous thing they tell us would be that the bank should fail. I agree with that. But the people of Canada have never been educated to treat gold or silver as money. Silver is looked on as convenient for change, while gold is a curiosity. Here in Western Canada we look on bank bills as money. It has always been so; and if there were a run on the bank men would be satisfied with bank notes. There has never been a run on a bank except it has been caused by stealing at the head office. (Applause.) They say it is necessary to keep an adequate reserve in case of need. But these runs on the bank would not affect the savings banks because we have always seen that in times of depression such as those we are now passing through the savings of the country have actually increased. This has been caused by people who ordinarily in good times would speculate with their money, but who in bad times get frightened and put it into the savings bank instead.

“These are the extra careful people, and as a result of their carefulness the savings in the savings banks in Canada

are increasing now, and the longer the present depression lasts the more the savings bank deposits will increase. The current accounts are not the same, for they do not pay interest, so there is not any particular trouble about them. Taking the bare facts of their deposits, and remember they are practically refusing to assist the public institutions of Canada, I should like to point out to you that during the last year the municipalities and local governments of Canada—and I may say this is not a personal matter, because our government, the government of Alberta, does not require any money at present—but the local governments and the municipalities of Ontario have already borrowed a hundred million dollars during the last year in the United States because cheap money had become impossible in England. If the financiers of Canada had purchased these debentures from the governments and municipalities of Canada with the hundred millions they withdrew from foreign countries. I do not think it would have been likely to have precipitated a run on the banks. (Applause.) Would not the Canadian people feel that they were doing what they could to help in the prosperity of the country and would they not deposit their dollars in the banks in order to assist the banks because the banks were assisting the people of Canada?

“Railways are built and should be built for the purpose of carrying crops—and there should be lots of them. There should be no monopoly. If they are only necessary for making Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary or Vancouver real estate worth more, then they should not be built, because that does not add to the prosperity of the country.

“I should like to refer to one fact, a fact about which there was great discussion in other parts of the empire. Years ago at the coronation in London many people were worrying for fear the mixed population of this western country would be detrimental to the empire and that British institutions would suffer. And I told them then that there was not a man in Western Canada who did not count the cost and decide that it was better for him and for his family

to have come there and being there was willing to uphold the integrity of the British flag if the time ever came when it was necessary. That time unfortunately for the empire did come and we have seen no more spontaneous answer to this request than that of Western Canada. (Applause). In proportion to population Western Canada sent more men, and in proportion to population it sent more money for the purpose of keeping up the patriotic funds of this country. Notwithstanding the fact that the East is much richer, and that they have had a hundred years to our forty in which to grow, our western people have sent more money than the people of Eastern Canada. No matter whence they came they have stood behind the local governments in every action they took, and if it is necessary to go further I have no doubt they will give to the last man and the last dollar. All over Western Canada they will be freely spent in the service of this war until the British Empire takes the supremacy and rules as it has done in the past." (Applause.)

Hon. J. A. Matheson said: "As one who has had some little opportunity of travelling through the west during the past fortnight and across this great Dominion, I would like to say that from the east to west, from ocean to ocean, the wonderful, the great thought that permeates all minds, all our people, is our duty to the British Empire. (Applause.) And to our Allies in this great war. Indeed it is not a question of how much prosperity the east has or how much prosperity the west may have, but rather shall we save our national life? Shall we be able to preserve for our children who will follow us British liberties and all those great things that the protection and the membership of the British Empire have secured for us in days past. If we will maintain our self-respect we must do our part whatever that may be as British subjects and citizens.

"At a time like this we feel from end to end of Canada a new spirit, a bond of union greater and stronger than ever exercised before. There is no question in the mind of any of us but that Britain will fight and fight, and it is the last

battle that she always wins. (Applause.) So she will win in this war, and when she has won we shall not only have conquered a people grown mad with pride and ambition but will have welded together into one homogeneous whole the scattered peoples throughout the globe belonging to the British Empire."



Mr. F. W. PETERS, President 1915-16.

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MARQUIS and MARCHIONESS of ABERDEEN

— ON —

“A Tribute to Canada.”

(November 13th, 1915)

A luncheon of the Men's and Women's' Canadian Clubs was given in the Hotel Vancouver, on November 13th, in honor of the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen. Mr. F. W. Peters, president of the Men's Canadian Club, and Mrs. Ralph Smith, president of the Women's Canadian Club, introduced the distinguished guests.

Lord Aberdeen said in part: “Your chairman alluded to Lady Aberdeen and myself as ex-Canadians. That is a very desirable thing no doubt, but there is something better and that is to be Canadians, (applause) and Canadians in something more than the past tense significance. (Applause). At any rate, we may claim to be still taxpayers in Canada. I have a vote in Canada too, and it is the only place where I have a vote. In England certain classes of the community, including peers, are excluded from that privilege.

“Vancouver today is a very different Vancouver from that I remember seventeen years ago. There has been a great transformation, an increase and a growth, but happily the same spirit remains—indeed more so than ever. There has been a fresh call upon the enterprise and energy which has been so distinctively and distinguishing a characteristic of this community since its inception. I am not going to quote, at least in any literal sense, the old Scottish phrase, the further from the kirk the nearer to grace. I shall quickly explain what I have in my mind. I spoke of the fresh call for the exercise of that fine spirit which happily has been so prominent in this city—the call which recently has come for a new and fresh exemplification and practical carrying out of patriotism and public spirit in the response to the sacred call of country, king and principle—(applause)

—incurred in volunteering for the war. When I spoke of the nearer the kirk the further from grace I meant this—that while all the Dominions have done nobly, surely British Columbia and the other regions of the Far West have excelled all the other portions of the Dominion in that respect, namely, the response to the great call. I do not imply undue complacency, but rather recognition of what has been done and what is being done. At any rate the people of the Old Country, or, to use the more intimate and affectionate designation—the Motherland—are profoundly impressed by the patriotism manifested by the Dominion of Canada, of which they were proud before, but of which in future they will be more proud than ever, because of this great rally, this great and noble response. I say further that before our brave Canadian lads got to the front they showed themselves worthy of their name, especially because of the fortitude and patience and the fine soldier-like qualities which they displayed in experiences which make a great demand upon these qualities—the period in a training camp, especially that period in the early days before everything has been got into the best state, the best-equipped condition. This is the time for soldier-like qualities and the spirit of patience and endurance and non-complaining. In this I am not criticising anybody, but simply giving my share of the discussion, being in the Old Country at the time and seeing the manner, the way in which the Canadian contingent showed the stuff of which it was made. They have gained unstinted and cordial appreciation, and I think these few remarks are therefore not out of place, although I do not wish to speak of the argumentative features of the war, but rather to pay a tribute—a well-deserved tribute, and one offered with sincerity to these men.”

Mrs. Ralph Smith, in introducing the Marchioness of Aberdeen, referred to the Women's Club being so gratified to have Lady Aberdeen amongst them, and to the new honors that had been showered on the Marquis and Marchioness since they were last in Canada. Lord and Lady Aber-

deen had done much to make Canada what it was today, and had lived up to the ideals they had set before them. (Applause). Lady Aberdeen had endeared herself to the people of Canada, and had raised the standard of women throughout the world. To her belonged the credit of organizing the local Council of Women, which had expanded until now there was an International Council of Women in which the women of the world had been banded together as never before. (Applause).

Lady Aberdeen said: "Seeing that I shall have the pleasure of addressing two further gatherings to day, I endeavored to plead with your two presidents that I might be let off on this occasion, and also that you might be let off. (Laughter.) But I found that neither would abate one jot or one iota of their presidential powers of exacting obedience. So what could I do but just obey? I thank you all very much, and join with Lord Aberdeen in thanking you all for your kind reception of us, and I assure you we shall never forget it. I wish to join with Lord Aberdeen in his protest against Mr. Peters' designation of us as ex-Canadians, we who were looking forward to settling down again with our fellow British Columbians, to find ourselves accounted indeed as old-timers! Instead of this we are told we are ex-Canadians indeed. We do protest most strongly and hope your president is going to make an apology. (Laughter.)

We feel that today we are much honored and privileged on being the guests of the club on such an auspicious occasion, an occasion on which you are putting your hands to a fresh effort to carry out a splendidly patriotic work."

HON. ROBERT ROGERS

— ON —

“Canada’s Part in the War.”

(November 15th, 1915)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver on November 15th, 1915, in honor of Hon. Robert Rogers, Federal Minister of Public Works. Mr. F. W. Peters occupied the chair.

In introducing the speaker of the day, the President referred to the burial of Sir Charles Tupper, then taking place in Eastern Canada, and asked the company to drink a silent toast to the memory of the last of the Fathers of Confederation.

Mr. Rogers said in part: “Insofar as the Province of British Columbia is concerned you have taken your place, you have taken your share, in this great struggle in such a manner and with such energy and determination, not alone in the outpouring of patriotism in treasure and in men, but in other forms and in other ways. You have shown your willingness in such a light that you have won for yourselves the respect and admiration of the older provinces of our Dominion of Canada.

“You are also rallying, as suggested by the remarks of my good friend the president, to your duty and responsibility today in support of our returned soldiers. That is a duty that belong to every free man and free woman within the borders of Canada today. They have to give that which best they can to care for the gallant sons of Canada on their return.

“We are assembled today at a crisis in this great struggle, when the principles of humanity and the existence of the British Empire are at stake, to say nothing at all of our own Dominion of Canada. For sir, when fifteen months ago, when the coming war-cloud loomed upon the horizon like the rising storm-cloud in summer, there fell upon the Canad-

ian people that breathless pause that precedes the hurricane. Sir, the hurricane came, and it was then only a question with us whether we should ride out into the storm. The answer came swiftly and with one voice from Canadians everywhere, declaring as they did that the bonds and the ties which bind Canada to the Motherland were stronger today than ever before. The government, recognizing and conscious of the fact that they had at their backs the sympathy and support of a united Canada, at once served notice on the world that Canada's part and place in this great conflict would be taken upon the wide field of battle. I am sure that in so doing we have today, as we had then, the sympathy, the support, and the endorsement of the Canadian people. (Applause).

“Our gallant soldiers who came forward by the thousand to press their services upon their country served notice also that they were with the empire, and this notice contained the clause that Canada's share and Canada's part in this great struggle would not be finished until the last shot was fired, and until the principles of liberty and freedom for which Britain stands had been gained.. (Applause.) Great Britain is at war not for conquest, not for aggrandizement, nor for the extension of her trade. She needs no new glory. She already controls the trade of the world and she has abundant undeveloped territory for her sons for centuries to come. But she is at war for the protection of the weak, for the maintenance of liberty. I am sure that, so far as Canada is concerned, what we believed at the outbreak of the war we are justified in believing today. It is this: That the vast amount of money which the Canadian people will be called upon to expend will be the best money that Canada has ever spent. We are spending for the purpose of assisting to preserve our two greatest possessions in this country, that of our British citizenship and that of our membership in the great British Empire. (Applause.)

“We are proud, as I said a moment ago, of our gallant sons who have been serving their flag. If we were proud at

the outbreak of the war of the very generous manner in which the men of Canada came forward and offered their services and pressed them upon their country, how much more proud must we be today? I am sure you will have noticed the additional call for another hundred thousand men that has been made, and I am glad to be able to say that that call is being responded to in all parts of Canada in a manner that is worthy of the Canadian people. (Applause.)

“Occasionally I have felt that there is some feeling, especially in the west, that the government has perhaps not acted as quickly and as energetically as they should have acted in the mobilization of additional troops. That is not the case. The government have been alive at all times to the necessity of the situation and the position of the government is simply this, that we have acted from the beginning of the war in the very closest touch with Lord Kitchener and the War Office, and no step has been taken or policy adopted by us that has not had the full endorsement and approval of Lord Kitchener and the War Office. Insofar as we are concerned, rest assured that we stand ready and willing to do our full duty at all times and under all circumstances, believing, as we do believe, that the business of the Canadian people today is the business of the war and nothing else until it is successfully concluded (applause); believing as we do that it is the duty of the Canadian people in common with the Allied world to see to it that German militarism is destroyed.

“It is no wonder that you, the people of Vancouver, in common with the people of the other parts of our Dominion, have a common interest in the welfare of our disabled men who have gone into that conflict and who have returned to us wounded and injured and disabled as a result of their test and their struggle. Let me say here and now that if there is one class of Canadian people who is more deserving, who has done more in my humble opinion to assist in the great work we have in hand, and who have, by their energy, willingness, readiness, and anxiety, contributed more than

any other class—and I am sure that I say with the approval of this assemblage that they are entitled to honor—and that class is the good ladies in all parts of our Dominion. (Applause.) I am therefore not surprised to come to Vancouver and find the ladies here taking an interest in all the work connected with the struggle and task we are undertaking today. No greater task can fall to the lot of any people in my humble judgment than that which is being undertaken by the Canadian Clubs, who have taken upon themselves the duty of caring for the comfort of our returned soldiers. This was recognized by the government some time ago, when the first of our returned soldiers came to our shores at Halifax or Quebec. We took the matter up. In the matter of our returned soldiers we are organizing in the form described by the president. First of all a committee was selected of which Senator Lougheed was made president. Representatives attended from the various provinces of the Dominion. We asked them to join and they accepted.

“The work of that committee was considered, and then we felt that it would be a good idea to invite representatives from the different provinces of Canada to discuss plans for organizing so that an arrangement could be made suitable and common to all of them. This meeting was held; the different provinces were represented with the result that we had no difficulty at all in reaching a unanimous conclusion between the provinces and the Dominion Government as to the share and part each should take in carrying out this great work. The government of Canada recognize their responsibility in regard to our returned soldiers. We recognize also that there is nothing in a legitimate way in the gift of the Canadian nation that is not due and coming to every returned soldier. (Applause)

“When that conference was held at Ottawa, and it was sitting in an adjoining room in the Parliament Buildings to that in which we were sitting, Senator Lougheed came to ask the question from the Council what share or part the Dominion should take in the matter of assistance to provide

suitably for our returned soldiers. He got the instructions from the Council, as representing the government, to carry back to that committee that was represented there simply this: That the government had confidence in that organization, and that Senator Lougheed, as representing the government, had the power and right to spend every dollar legitimately necessary to provide for the sustenance, comfort and assistance for every returned soldier that come to our shores, (applause)—disabled as the result of the war. That is simply the position of the Canadian people today as represented through the government of the country.

“Our returned soldiers will be cared for and we have also a duty to our gallant sons who are still at the front fighting our battles. We have the duty of seeing that Canada’s share in this great conflict is by no means exhausted. After all but a sprinkling of the men who are able and anxious to go have yet gone. We have made a call for an additional number; that call is being responded to and we propose to continue that; we are not going, if need requires it, to stop at the hundred thousand, but continue so long as there is a citizen in Canada who is willing to offer his services and go to the front to do battle for his country. (Applause.) The Canadian people as represented by the government are ready to assist him, are ready to arm him and make him ready to do that battling. If there is one thing of which we are more proud than another it is, to my mind, the lack of the necessity for conscription. We have our men willing and ready at all times and I do believe—I am fully satisfied that the day will never come when it will be necessary for us to have conscription; but on the contrary that the spirit of loyalty on the part of Canadians everywhere will make conscription unnecessary in this Dominion. We have the spirit that will win victory for our flag without the necessity of resorting to force in carrying on this great struggle.

“Believing, as I do, that we are fighting a righteous war; believing as we do that we are fighting for the great cause of justice when we triumph in the struggle; then will

come to the Canadian people in common with the Allied world all the advantages and glory and all the good that a continuation of the power of the British Empire as a great force for the preservation of peace—and particularly for the civilization of the world—is sure to bring to the people of our great and glorious nation.” (Applause.)

REV. STUART ROUSSEL

— ON —

“Alsace and Lorraine.”

(November 22nd, 1918)

Rev. Stuart L. Roussel, of Paris, a noted French Huguenot Pastor, was the guest of honor at a luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club in the Hotel Vancouver on November 22nd, when the chair was taken by Rev. W. H. Vance, one of the vice-presidents of the club.

Rev. Mr. Roussel said: “On this side of the ocean perhaps people do not quite understand why for us Frenchmen the question of Alsace, of Alsace and Lorraine, was and is such a paramountly important matter. It may even seem strange to some of you who are here. I want to take this opportunity to make you realize what the French standpoint in the question of Alsace really is. It is not a question of country merely; it is a question of a great principle and one for which France has been fighting for many years. I certainly believe that if Alsace had remained French forty-five years ago there would be no war today. Bismarck, however, gave way to the temptation of those who urged him to annex French territory—I am told that he did not personally care about it; but General Von Moltke, the head of the military General Staff, whose ideas were military and hardly human, forced his hand. Bismarck felt the danger of touching the question. The claim of Germany, as you know, is that Alsace and Lorraine are German. Our claim is that they are French.

“We are now, I may say, only in the last stage of a great battle, the battle for liberty, which has been fought in France for many centuries. That battle has been fought for religious liberty. It was fought three or four centuries ago in the mountains of Southern France. The battle for civil liberty was fought out in the streets of Paris, and the right of a man to be his own master in the world was settled. The

last stage is, shall the nation be her own? Shall the nation be herself?

“When German writers deal with the question of Alsace it is generally their habit not to inquire about the feeling of the nation, but to deal with the historical aspect of the question. I am willing to meet them even on that ground. The German standpoint is that in the past Alsace was German. Alsace became French when it was handed over to the Kings of France in recognition for what they had done to help Germany to keep and defend her liberties against the powerful Austrian empire. At the beginning of the Thirty Years’ War Germany was only a small weak country consisting of principalities. On the other hand Austria was a powerful empire. Austria wanted to impose her rule on Germany and Germany appealed to us, and France, always ready to stand for the cause of liberty, sent armies to help Germany to keep her Germanic liberties. As an acknowledgment for that help the Elector of Brandenburg handed over Alsace to France. As regards Strassburg, that city opened her doors willingly to King Louis XIV., who was a man of considerable breadth of mind and of view, and who saw that the proper attitude to be observed in Alsace was to be as mild and generous as he never was in his own kingdom of France. He saw that the wise thing to do was not to interfere with Alsatian matters. He sought to gain their hearts, and after two centuries of occupation you will find that while the customs and habits of the people may be Germanic in many ways, their hearts—the great heart of the country—is French. France had gained it in a marvellous way and to a marvellous extent. Then came the great reverse of 1871, when the French Parliament, discussing conditions of peace, sent Germany word that they would cede Alsace and Lorraine, these two provinces. All the deputies and senators from these provinces rose in their places as one man and handed in a protest—one of the most remarkable documents in history—against annexation to Germany. They said ‘You must not, you have no right

to give us over to a foreign nation, we a nation of free men. You have no right to make such terms or to recognize such an agreement!’ And in a proclamation signed by solemn serment (oath) they declared they would never recognize any such agreement or arrangement that would hand them over to Germany. (Applause.) Gambetta sided with them, and as a recognition for his strenuous work on their behalf the leaders of that unhappy country presented him a picture showing Alsace as a young woman in Alsatian national costume, and with the words above her head “*Elle Attente.*” (She is waiting.) Yes; she has been waiting with wonderful consistency during this last 45 years and she will not, I hope and pray, have to wait very much longer. (Applause.)

“Last year our troops penetrated into Alsace. I should tell you first that the Alsatians did not know that there was a war with France, neither did they have any idea of the actual conditions of things that then prevailed. A month or two ago, when I was there, they told me that they did not know France was engaged in the war at all, for if they had they would have—that is all their young men would have—crossed the frontier before they could be called up to fight against France. They knew that there had been trouble between Germany and Russia. They knew there was war with Russia, and they thought they had only Russia to fight. The Alsatians were, however, drafted into the ranks of the German army, and then it was too late. On August 7th our troops passed the summits of the mountains and what then took place I shall leave to one of our men who was a poet before he joined the army. He was appointed, I should tell you, by the French Minister of War as singer to the army—the first time such an appointment had been given to any man. He was to sing on the battlefield, to sing to the living, to sing to the dying and so on. He was amongst one of those who went into Alsace on that day, and he describes it in a wonderful little book that realizes the feelings of the Alsations in a remarkable fashion.

When we crossed the frontiers and penetrated into these large forests of pine trees we were astonished to find that the very trees were talking, and that we could understand every word which they said! Now as you know German is the language of the Alsations, but, says this Singer—We found the trees talking French, and the next day in the villages we found we could understand everything the fowls were saying. The fowls were talking French. The schools were open and the teachers in charge of the schools were engaged with the children, who had not heard a word of the French language, giving them dictation in French. They were saying “*Douce France est ma patrie*”. (Sweet France is my Fatherland). The boys replied to the teacher: “Why, we know that sentence by heart.”

“That was a very nice scene and described the feeling of the people very closely. When I was in the United States last winter several French people asked me about this: Is it a country that France has to conquer or will it return to the Fatherland? I think that is the right way, not to consider agreements between kings or racial questions.

“There is something far more interesting, and that is the question: “What will the people who are in the country today think about it?” Having returned to France last summer I asked for facilities to inquire into the question and to bring an answer to that question back again. I managed to secure a pass and to get right to the front. I cannot describe my experiences in better words than these to which I have already referred today—the trees talking French and so on. Germany had been in uncontested occupation of the country and with full power over it for the past forty-five years; and yet I found the people far more French than they had ever been (applause). Why was this? Because of their experience of the other regime. Where the French sought to get their hearts and to dispense with other things that did not matter the German motto to be exactly the contrary. They dealt with the externals al-

together, they made French a prohibited language and they troubled about outside things, but they did not trouble to secure their hearts. I find the result in a remarkable way. I have got a few Alsatian songs with me—my daughter sings them—and I have been asked what is the Alsatian national song. Now there is no Alsatian national song; their national song is the Marseillaise (applause). So here we find a people that is not able to speak a word of French, yet have the Marseillaise for their national song. In externals they are German, but at heart they are thoroughly French. One school ceremony I attended in the valley occupied by our troops—it was a distribution of prizes, I should tell you that prizes are only distributed in French schools; there are none in the German methods of education. French is compulsory in all the elementary schools of Germany and yet French is a prohibited language in the schools, in every school in Alsace. So all these boys and girls at this prize distribution did not know a word of French.

“Now in Alsace the aristocracy of the country, the employers of labor and the rich people speak French. French was their language; but the working classes did not know a single word of French. The Germans had prohibited even sign posts in the French language and even signs over shops. So you would frequently see old signs falling to pieces in the villages never having been altered for forty five years; for any signs that were up before that time were allowed to remain unchanged. They had never been repainted. Even in the churchyards, in the cemeteries, the funeral inscriptions were not allowed in French. They were to be in German. That has been the condition of things up to the time when General Maud’hui and General Sarrail occupied the country. One of the first things that the generals did was to choose men to teach the French language. As you know the French army is an army of men taken from every line of life so it was easy to secure the teachers that were wanted. One was placed in charge of every school and the children of Alsace were given a

chance to learn the language. Such was the enthusiasm that in about six months they had practically acquired the language (applause). Well as I was saying when I arrived there and of this prize distribution, I went there and I found the children making use of the French they had learned in the previous six months.. They were singing the Marseillaise with a German accent! It was really amusing.

“When the day of the general distribution of prizes came the results were really remarkable. As no prizes were available, a French paper, *La Liberte* issued an appeal saying: “We are going to have a distribution of prizes. There is no such thing in the German schools!” And they asked for prizes to be sent in. And the prizes were so showered upon the country that the school authorities had to give first prize to every boy and girl in the school and then they had to invent occasions for giving prizes, such as prizes for goodwill and politeness and things like that. There were flags at the back of the platform—flags which had been hidden in cellars and cupboards for forty-five years. When the great day came, they were taken out and used.

“I have heard from your president that conflicting accounts have been given of the vote of the people in Alsace. Let me set your minds at rest on that point. There are two kinds of Alsatians. There are those who have been in the country in the last forty-five years who have come in with the Germans to Strassburg and Metz as officials, as mayors, and as others, and certainly these constitute a large proportion of the population. It is quite true that these do not desire the return of the French. But of those who have known French rule there is no doubt about their feelings.

“Now as regards the life in the trenches in Alsace. After visiting the villages, I went to the firing line. I was anxious to find something that would interest you and which would give you an idea of the French army. My guide was a representative of an old Alsatian family, who before the war had been the employer of 21,000 men and women in his silk factories. When the day of mobilization

came, he took rank as a common soldier in the French army. I have read in the papers recently, that "the moral of the troops is excellent." I have often desired to see that with my own eyes. I had made visits to the hospitals, but I wanted to see how the men were at the front, when they had left their wives and children at home and were thinking about them and about their cow or their horse, that were wanting their care, or their shops and businesses going to pieces because they were not there. How was their moral? I was astonished to find the splendid moral of the troops. I am referring to the two classes—the younger class known as the *actifs* and the territorial class which is different from what you know as territorials and means that they are older men who are not to be sent to fight outside of France. I found them all resolute at heart. I asked one young fellow and he said in a slang expression: "On les aura" which might be given as "We'll get them"; "quand on voudra", "when we wish". He was quite certain of that. This is particularly true of the Alpine troops who have taken positions after positions and who look on General Joffre in whom they have complete confidence, not as a disciplinarian, but they call him *Grand'pere* (grandfather). They were full of confidence. The great valor of the Alpine troops is notable. They consider that the Alpine troops are quite at the top of the scheme of things. They set God a little below, but as my guide had it the Major of the Alpine battalion runs Him close. They set Alpine troops, in the clouds, then clouds, then more Alpine troops below, then clouds again, and under these clouds the rest of the French army. (Laughter)

"I remember a friend was talking to me in the eastern States and he said: "Well, we are rather astonished at the attitude of France. We knew that the French people loved Art and Literature and Philosophy, and we were astonished to see what backbone she showed in this war! They thought that we were a nation of what do you call it—butterflies—all color on the wings and no strength in the back (laughter).

You have frequently misunderstood our country, I think. You have made at least two mistakes. Most people make them. You come to France and you go to visit Paris. You spend two or three days in Paris. You see the crowds and the galleries and the boulevards and then you say that you have seen France. Paris is not France. You hear of the Moulin Rouge (laughter) as part of Paris and you say that Paris is France, and you think the Moulin Rouge is France also. The whole of France is in no such state.

“We in France say that if it were not for our foreigners there would be no Moulin Rouge in Paris. However that may be we in France believe that you when you come to visit us see merely the froth on the country, not the country itself. I have often dreamed of one thing that I would like to see carried out, and the Canadian club might perhaps be instrumental in carrying it into effect by some means or other. It is this. That associations should be formed both sides of the ocean to allow you to see the private life of France and not merely the theatres, boulevards and sights of Paris; that you should be able to see the private families of France and get to know them.

“Referring to France as a whole the war has had a remarkable influence on many of our men. It is quite true that France was not so bad in a materialistic sense as she was thought to be; yet of course there were many undesirable things in France. But the war has counteracted these. The war has changed all of our men. They feel, as it were, crusaders in a sacred cause, and this feeling has a great power over many men and makes them almost sainted men in what they do and think. The conception of fighting in a sacred cause has had the effect of keeping down everything that is bad. I saw one case of it. The chaplain told me about it. He was an Apache—we have the same word as they use in the United States—one of those men who is of criminal and vicious origin. That man had answered to the call of his country—the call for liberty and righteousness amongst the nations, and the war had such a remark-

able influence upon him that he behaved gallantly and was mentioned for his bravery in the Order of the Day of the army once or twice, and got the Military Medal also. He came to his Major and said one day: "Mon Commandant, I have been mentioned in the Order of the Day and I have received the Military Medal. I ask only one thing more and that is to die" I believe what the poor fellow meant was this; he meant "I have redeemed my character. I am a new man; but if peace were to succeed war I do not know that I should keep what I have got. I might give way again to the old temptations. Better a death with honor." On the same day he sent for the priest and was baptised. He took the Holy Communion. The same day a little later he was killed.

"That is only a type of many others. Do not misunderstand me. I am standing here as a minister of the Gospel and I believe that war is of the devil and hellish. But war may have a wonderful effect on human nature. It is having it in my country and we feel that the dawn of a day of better things spiritually and politically is very near France. France has tried materialism and found it wanting. She has been told to look down, look at Matter, learn science, physics, and you will find happiness. She has not found it. Now she seems to be going to look up again and be far more true to herself.

"The Frenchman has too great a love for the ideal. France will look up again when the cloud of war has passed away. It will find France stronger, purer and more ready for the great task before her. We shall realize more and more that there is no reason why Britain and all her colonies and France should not join together in tasks of great moment to the world. The two nations are different. You are essentially a practical race; we are an idealistic race. Neither is right by itself. We want a mixture of both. Then let us join hands now and for ever that the cause of righteousness and liberty may prosper thereby. (Loud applause)"

CAPT. ASHMEAD BARTLETT

— ON —

“The Dardanelles Campaign.”

(January 18th, 1916.)

Captain Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, the well-known war correspondent, was the guest of the Canadian Club at the Hotel Vancouver on Jan. 18, when the chair at the luncheon given in the Hotel Vancouver was occupied by Mr. F. W. Peters, the president. Captain Ashmead-Bartlett said in part:

“It may perhaps interest you to hear a few facts about the general state of the war as it exists at present. A great deal has been written and a great deal has been said about the role that England has been playing in the present war: I myself found the most extraordinary illusions prevailing in New York about three weeks ago when I passed through that city on my way here, and a great number of people seemed to have the idea that England was not really making a great effort, that she could do a great deal more than she was doing and that she was hanging back allowing her Allies to bear the brunt of the fighting in this colossal conflict. As Englishmen you know that this is absolute nonsense. (applause).

“When we entered into this war we were bound by certain unwritten understandings that if Russia and France were suddenly attacked by Germany and Austria we would undertake to send to their assistance an expeditionary force of 160,000 men. Now as a matter of fact, I do not believe any other nation in the world would have voluntarily undertaken an obligation of that kind considering the position in which we were. (Applause.) That expeditionary force absorbed our entire regular army, which consisted of about 180,000 men apart from the 70,000 we kept in India. Behind the regular army which we kept for the defence of our shores we had merely the territorial forces which at the

start of the war, numbered about 320,000 men, of whom 250,000 men were only partly trained. Therefore the despatch of the expeditionary force to France fulfilled our obligations towards our Allies, and to do it we had to send the whole of our regular army from our shores, relying on the fleet. You will agree that to send our regular army away like that is a wonderful achievement—probably the most extraordinary achievement in the history of any nation. When I think that we have been only 18 months at war, and during that time we have raised some three million men, not counting the magnificent contingents sent from Canada and Australia and the other Dominions beyond the seas, I think we have done fairly well (applause). At the present moment we have in France an army of about a million men. We have large masses of men in India, Egypt, and Salonika. In addition to these there are a million men undergoing a process of training in England. By next Spring there is no reason why we should not have in the field on the western front two million men.

“Now it is no use maintaining that we have conducted our various campaigns with any great ability. This war has undoubtedly been a great disappointment to all the combatants who have taken part in it. It is inconceivable that the Germans would have forced war on Europe had they realized 18 months ago the position in which they would stand today. They knew that Russia could put immense masses of troops into the field; that the French army would be animated by the most determined fighting spirit in this great crisis in its history; but they relied on their superior organization at the start as well as their superior numbers to enable them to crush France absolutely before Russia and England could play any real role in the struggle. They nearly succeeded. . This was due to several causes, chiefly that the French, like ourselves of the Anglo-Saxon race, have always had a great respect for the referee and for the rules of the game (applause). We and France naturally supposed, that Germany would not violate the neutrality of

Belgium; and therefore the mass of the French troops was at the start of the war, concentrated in Alsace-Lorraine. When Germany invaded Belgium she took all of the Allies by surprise. The Belgians were incapable of a prolonged resistance. But considering its numbers and the shortness of its training the Belgian army put up a vital struggle against the enemy (Applause). But that did not give the French army time to concentrate on the frontier on the line of the Meuse and the Somme, the natural lines on which to resist the Germans. Had they anticipated a flank movement through Belgium they would have been better prepared. The result was that the little British army was called upon to show what it could do. It consisted of our old and tried professional fighters, the same class of fighters who went through the Peninsular war, Waterloo and endured that long struggle in the Crimea, led by families who for generations had supplied our officers in the field. On that force we could absolutely rely. That small army—so tiny, that it would hardly be worth noticing in the great agglomeration of those European masses—by its extraordinary resistance in retreat played a most vital role in saving France in the early days of the war.

“When the whole empire came forward to engage and to serve in various capacities in the war, we had not got the properly trained chiefs needed to lead these men to victory in the most rapid and skilful way. The result is that we have suffered various local disasters which otherwise might have been avoided. I refer to our campaign in the Near East especially. It was a great blunder to think we could take Constantinople, because we felt that if we forced the Dardanelles we would have made an outlet for the immense Russian grain, her petroleum and other supplies. In return we would be able to send her supplies of munitions by the same road. Unfortunately, in conceiving this expedition, we seemed to have forgotten the existence of the Turkish Empire. The Turk is a fine fighter and unfortunately we believed that he was totally demoralized, because we based

our estimate upon what he had done in the Balkan war. The Turk was taken by surprise; his armies were scattered through Palestine, Asia Minor, Europe and they were beaten before they ever got a chance to put up a good resistance in the field, but when the Bulgarians came up to the Tchatalja lines on their way to Constantinople the Turk was able to hold them off and they never got there after all. But the Turk of 1915 was a very different Turk from the Turk of 1912, because the Germans for the intervening three years had been making great efforts in reorganizing the army. When this war broke out they had been really under arms since 1912. When we attacked the Dardanelles the Turks had a strong army ready to put into the field.

“In my opinion the expedition might have succeeded if conducted on different lines. We made every imaginable blunder. We attacked first of all with the navy alone, thus warning the Turks we were really coming. Then we landed an army in totally insufficient force, and we also delivered attacks on positions that were capable of being held by a few men against great numbers. Unfortunately our attacking forces were so small at the start, in almost every instance the Turks had the superiority in numbers. The campaign went on throughout the early months of last year, and then we made our final big effort on the sixth of August. There again we adopted wrong strategy and wrong tactics because, instead of trying to cut the neck of the position we landed a force at Suvla Bay, only four miles from the “Anzac” positions. Instead of trying to cut off or starve out the Turks we tried to force our way through by means of frontal attacks. This failure resulted in a loss of 200,000 men in killed, wounded and missing, as well as sick. I am sorry to say that the heaviest losses have fallen on the magnificent contingent Australia and New Zealand (applause) have sent. You have got to consider that the Dardanelles expedition is only a small incident in this vast campaign. It would have been a staggering blow for the enemy had it succeeded; but we lost, and we suffered heavily. To

my mind this war will really be won by moral forces in the end far more than by any great decisive victory in the field. If it is won by moral forces I do not think that any single factor will have contributed more to the victory than the magnificent manner in which the New Zealand and Australian troops fought on the peninsula, in the way in which they landed and delivered their attacks, in their wonderful endurance of every hardship and discomfort, and since then the extraordinary calm and determined manner in which the people of Australia have accepted the inevitable. (Loud and continued applause).

“Another expedition that did not end in disaster, but which at the same time did not succeed, was the expedition to assist Serbia.

“I see no reason why Turkey should be fighting against us today—or Bulgaria either, if we had only gone about it in the right way. By the proper distribution of money in the right quarter (laughter), by a proper display of force, and by similar means we should have got Bulgaria into this war on our side. But as we have done in the past so we have done this time—we have been playing the game too honorably. It is contrary to British notions to bribe anyone. In the Near East, however, you can only get anything done by the use of money, by bribery, by what is called backsheesh. Put money in the hands of the men who count in the management of affairs; promise them loans and so on; and then they will act as you wish.

“The Salonika expedition was too late. The French General Joffre insisted on that expedition in order to save Serbia. He was right, although it did not save Serbia. You must remember that it would have created a most dangerous precedent—a precedent which might have been felt throughout our alliances if we had acquiesced in the principle that if one of the Allies could not have been saved we should not go to its assistance when it needed it. General Joffre saw the moral effect the despatch of the Allied troops would have would be greater than even if we had

saved Serbia by actual operations in the field. That is why we undertook that operation in the field.

“You have heard of the German attack on Egypt. That is all bluff and nonsense. (Applause.) Egypt is absolutely safe. It would be absolutely playing into our hands if the Germans attempted to attack the Suez canal, for they have first to cross the waterless Sinai desert, a distance of 130 miles, and then they will find us in a position known as the strategical defensive, which means that you are in a position to make the enemy attack you where it suits you best, and where you have everything you wish to defend behind you.

“This war can only be won in two ways—either by combined attacks on the western and eastern fronts—either in France or by the eastern armies; or, as I maintain by the gradual slow process of pressure on the Central Powers. Salonika and the Dardanelles expeditions will not win the war. That point of view is quite recognized in England now. It is all to the interests of the Central Powers to get us involved in these wars against Turkey and Bulgaria, because every man sent there means less pressure on the western front, and that is what Germany fears more than everything else. She is in the position of a speculator in stocks who is carrying too much stock and is trying to get it transferred to someone else. She is trying to get hers transferred to Bulgaria and to Turkey.

“The end of the war is by no means in sight. It will last a long time yet—perhaps another couple of years. The Allies have never yet coordinated and combined their movements. This we hope, with the plentiful supplies of ammunition that is coming in from neutral America (laughter), from our own works in England and Canada and elsewhere, will be remedied. We believe that in the spring we shall be able to deliver a heavy blow on both fronts. Then the question arises: will the German defensive be able to resist that combined attack? I should hardly like to venture even an opinion on that point. It depends on too many unknown

factors. We know our strength and what we can do, but we do not know what the Russian army will be able to do or how far its striking power has been weakened by the reverses of 1915. But even if we do not succeed in breaking the German fronts in this coming grand attack the results of the war in the end will be the same.

“We want as far as possible, if we want to win this war, to run it on economical industrial lines, to return, if necessary, most of our population to these ordinary occupations. If the war ends in stalemate as far as fighting is concerned the powers that will win are those that will have done as little harm as possible to themselves financially and industrially during the war.

“This war has shown that it is impossible to win decisive victories. Germany could not do it. Can we do it? Now out of this terrible holocaust of murder and slaughter no one knows how we shall come, but there is one bright feature, and that is that war has been rendered absolutely impossible in the future. After the lessons of this war, after what we have seen has taken place, no single power in Europe would ever dare venture under existing conditions to attack another great power again.

“Now to read the account of the conscription bill in the newspapers here you would imagine that most of the people of England were not willing to serve. That is totally untrue (applause). There has been no need for conscription until this minute. Up to this we have had more men than we could supply with arms and equipment. Many hundreds of thousands of men were willing to serve at the start of the war but they were told to go back to their ordinary jobs.

“Then we had a tremendous rise in wages, and it is not in human nature that when a man offers himself for service, and is told to resume his ordinary work and then gets higher wages, he should evince a desire not to stick to his job rather than live in the trenches. Now we have got our armies organized and we need a certain number of

men per month to keep these armies up to the strength. That is why, at the present time, it is necessary to bring in this conscription measure.

“Although things in this war are not going quickly they are going more satisfactorily than they have been for a long time. The people of the country now understand what this war means and the sacrifices they have got to make to carry it on. The war office has now established the General Staff to work with our Allies; and our campaign will not now be conducted by the independent members of the Cabinet but by experts, a committee of experts under Sir William Robertson.

“There has been nothing finer than the magnificent response of the empire to the call that you should send men to assist the Mother Country in this most fearful struggle. Although I have not seen the Canadian troops in the field I have been in touch with many people who have, and I am told that there is no finer fighting force than the troops from Canada. I do believe this, that whatever may be the result of the war Germany hoped to break up our empire, but whether we come out of it absolutely victorious or the war ends in a compromise, defeat is absolutely impossible for us (applause). We shall find that the whole empire has been bound closer together through the ambitions of Germany than through anything that occurred before this war was declared.”

MAJOR W. B. CLAYTON
— ON —
“Some Sidelights on the War.”

(April 5th, 1916.)

The Vancouver Canadian Club gave a luncheon in honor of Major W. B. Clayton, Director-General of the Dental Services Corps on April 5th, in the Hotel Vancouver. Mr. W. F. Peters, president of the club, introduced the speaker. Major Clayton said in part:—

“I must confine myself to one or two points today. I would like for example to deal with what our Corps has done but needless to say that question is much too large. The corps however, has done splendid work since its inception eight or nine months ago. It has now grown to a thousand men from a very small number and its work is being done from Victoria, across the continent, in England, in Egypt, in Saloniki, in the Island of Lemnos, in France and elsewhere.

“Getting together these men and arranging their work needless to say has kept us very busy. The corps has fully justified its existence and through its work thousands of men are today at the front who, because of trouble with their teeth, were at first refused for service in the ranks. (applause). I cannot better preface my remarks perhaps than by saying in all seriousness that today we stand by the cradle of Canada's greatness and we must see that we are not mourners at its hearse. I may say that I do not agree with many of the plans now being carried out to stimulate recruiting. They are perhaps antagonizing many men that in the first place you set out to convince. I do not say I hold with all the systems in vogue, but of this I am certain—that man who is today able to take his part in this great struggle for the liberation of the world and fails to do so will never survive but to regret his action, and his children and his children's children will recall his failure

to him. There is no place for any man today to get up and say 'Canada has no part in this war.' Such an attitude is unpatriotic, un-British and un-Canadian (loud applause). I ask any man who would say that to look at these fatherless children, these women, these widows in black, that sister or sweetheart torn by a noble sorrow and worn with inward grief, and say that Canada has no part in this war. Perhaps we can afford to have a few 'little Canadians' amongst us to plough their lonely furrow of rancor and discontent, and to go down alone to those vile depths to which they belong unwept, unhonored and unsung (applause). Compare them with our gallant sons who have died at the front keeping up their British traditions, and whose minds are now soaring above the clouds and conversant with the highest. Think of Ypres, Festubert, Langemarek, Hill Sixty, and of the wonderful achievement there. Think of the heroic sacrifices in days gone by that have been made by the people of our country. It is by deeds such as these that the world remakes its character and strengthens and purifies its life. When we remember how this war started—without going back to its further sources—when we recall how Germany, having pledged herself to maintain the integrity of Belgium, has broken it to her own advantage—how can you imagine that such a country will observe international law or the conventions of civilization? They commit every crime and carry out every atrocity. The Kaiser hoped to celebrate Christmas in London, we have been told, and to complete his orgy of rapine and murder by celebrating the nativity at one and the same time. 'Unto you is born a new prince of peace,' he wished to be able to say, whose dominion shall extend to the ends of the earth. But by one of those peculiar happenings he has failed in his calculations because he left out the personal element. Dealing with his trip across the Atlantic from Montreal, he said: "Nothing occurred until we got into the submarine area, which at that time was being constantly extended. Our destroyers were not in sight when we entered the area. At twelve o'clock

no destroyers were visible. One o'clock came—no destroyers; two o'clock, no destroyers. We were going along at seventeen knots and things were getting interesting. We were getting messages from ships in distress, and I may tell you that no less than five ships were sunk that day within a comparatively short distance of our boat. We had 2,300 souls on board and not a gun to protect us. Every minute our men were beginning to expect to see a periscope. But after a time they set their jaws and seemed to say to themselves: 'Well if she is going to come, let her come.' I have noticed a peculiar thing that where you see a crowd assembled there is a sort of feeling that runs through you and seems to take hold of you and lift you out of yourself. So the men on board that ship were wrought up. And three o'clock in the morning came and still no destroyer. This time feeling was getting rather strong and about 3.15 someone saw a periscope off the starboard side apparently coming straight for us. Every man got on deck and I went with them. In less than twenty minutes the periscope was close to us and then we found it was the funnel of a fast destroyer from Plymouth going forty-five miles an hour with the water coming over her bows, jack tars on her decks and simply bristling with guns. The Union Jack was at her stern, and for a Canadian that was one of the best sights he ever saw. For my own part, and for the first time in my life, I got a glimpse of the might of Great Britain on the seas. She came alongside giving directions, telling us our course, and she manoeuvred back and forth and circled round us simply to show us her speed. She was about one-tenth the size of us but had many guns. About 4.30 she went to the port side apparently in chase of a periscope, but it turned out to be only an ordinary wooden box above the surface of the water. Just the same they had their eyes on it just as they have upon everything that floats. (Applause.) We were told that England would be in sight about four o'clock. Now I had never been there, and since my youth I have always been a student of English history and a pro-

found admirer of the true spirit of Imperialism. I was, therefore, so anxious to get my first glimpse of Old England that I got up at 3.30 o'clock in the morning. It was a disagreeable drizzly morning and I did not see the coast as I expected. At 8.30 o'clock a dense fog came down lasting for over two hours—just the very type of weather for submarines to get in some of their deadly work. As suddenly as it came down the fog lifted and then we found ourselves surrounded by those black monsters who were there for our protection. Any submarine that would have dared to show itself then would have gone down, but not in the regular way. A little later we saw the beautiful hills of Devon, and I would like to be able to tell you what I felt when I saw them. I may be a more sentimental person than usual, but when I saw those hills I could not help saying to myself 'Good old England; grand old England.' (Applause.) When we arrived we were met by small and large craft of every description, all tooting their syrens. And when we landed our welcome was overpowering. When we were in the train the people seemed to vie with each other in welcoming the Canadians. Everyone, I happen to know however, gets the same welcome in England.

'At every little station the scenes were repeated. Even the navvies working on the side of the track, when they saw the banners we had strung along the train—although as a rule they took no notice of the passing traffic—stopped their work—one of them said to the others 'By God, George, it's the Canadians.' And he threw his hat in the air: 'They all shouted 'Bravo, Canadians,' and we who were so far away from Canada reechoed their cry of 'Good old Canada.' (Applause.) When you are five or six thousand miles away from your home you know what it is to be amongst real friends. Indeed we got the same welcome everywhere. I cannot help but think what a tremendous influence such things will have on the feeling of our men towards the empire. Some of the things we saw at Shorncliffe and Folkestone impressed me. When our men saw the

little dishes let into the street they asked what they were for, and they told us they were for the dogs to drink from. And I found, too, that they took great care of their horses and had places for them also. And I thought to myself a nation that can take care of dumb brutes, and at the same time is mighty enough to transport hundreds of thousands of troops across the seas without the loss of a man is a grand enough and great enough nation for me to pin my faith to and if necessary to give the greatest sacrifice that can be made for it. (Loud applause.)

“I cannot sit down, gentlemen, without telling you something about France. For France let me say this, that she is the most wonderful nation, the most wonderful people, in the struggle. France has found herself. In her we find a nation in arms; every man is a soldier, and even the men working on the railroads are working in uniform. Women do the heaviest kind of work loading drays, ploughing in the fields, managing hotels and departmental stores, and engaging in men’s occupations. I have seen women driving two horses and children following the plough. The woman would make a detour when she came to the end of a furrow, and when she got back again to the other end she would find the field torn into holes by German shells. They took no notice of the shells.

“I may be more given to sentiment than ordinarily is the case, and perhaps it may not be good for me, but I could not help noticing one pathetic thing in the town of Bailleul. I saw there a woman whose husband was at the front. She had a family of three or four children, and she supported herself by taking in washing. She was that afternoon cleaning up the children and putting on those things they wear in that part of France. She was anticipating her husband home on leave. Just then a despatch rider came up on a motor cycle, jumped off and took from his leather pouch a blue official-looking envelope. She received it smilingly. Then she opened the envelope. It contained the dreadful news that her husband had been blown to bits by a

shrapnel shell. The woman melted with a noble sorrow. Her heart was torn with grief; but in half an hour she controlled herself with a mighty effort, and shaking herself a little, calmly resumed her task of carrying water from the street. Now a people who can meet sorrow like that are surely going to win. (Loud applause.) Even the spirit of women and children cannot be dampened. It is wonderful. I made it my business to visit some of the burying grounds over there to see for myself some of the names of those Canadians who had been killed. In many instances I found some of them. One indeed was that of a grandson of Sir Oliver Mowat, who is buried near some men from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

“Greatness for this people is spelt with capital letters. The lullaby of their babies in the cradles is a song of victory. The battle ground of the soldiers of France will become the playground of the children of France. (Applause.) The spectre of the First Napoleon is abroad throughout the land of France today. The spirit of victory is the mightiest power in the land. Nothing can exceed the enthusiasm of the soldiers. You will see them stroking their famous seventy-fives, and an officer will take out his handkerchief to wipe specks from one of these guns. You cannot look on these heroic people and contemplate the devastation of war—war in its most awful form—without being compelled to bless this mighty people and breathe the hope that they may inspire us by their example.”

LIEUT.-COL. WARDEN
— ON —
“The Second Battle of Ypres.”

(April 26th, 1916.)

Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Warden was the guest of honor at the luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club held in the Hotel Vancouver, on Wednesday, April 26th, in commemoration of Ypres Day, April 22. The toast of “The Canadian Expeditionary Forces” was proposed by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. Mr. F. W. Peters, the president of the Club, occupied the chair.

Col. Warden said in part: “I will try to give you an outline of our mobilization over to the front and what happened there as briefly as I can. You know when war was declared we in Canada were not prepared. Volunteers were called for, and I went. I must not forget to pay a tribute to the Minister of Militia for the way in which he organized the first contingent in which I had the honor to serve. He mobilized 35,000 men; he put up one and a half miles of targets and good rifle ranges, laid in water near the camp and put it in first-class sanitary condition, all within thirty days. The fleet which took us across the Atlantic, then the largest in the history of the British Empire—since then I believe it has been exceeded by contingents coming from Australia and India—consisted of about eighty vessels. It was a grand sight to see the fleet—the ships one behind the other and right and left from the horizon to the horizon. Our ship was right in the centre. We could only see the smoke of the warships until we came near England. Then we heard that there were German submarines waiting for us. We were going to land at Portsmouth, I think, but we got into Plymouth before anyone was aware of it. After we landed, it took us some few days to disembark, we went to Salisbury Plain, where we underwent three months’ training. There we did a little of everything. We not only

trained as soldiers but we built railroads and highways. We did almost every kind of work. For the greater part of the time the weather was very bad. It rained all the time and it was really very uncomfortable. There was a rumor that the Canadians were finding fault with their treatment, but I would like to contradict that. It was absolutely untrue. After we had trained for a certain period we were taken over to France. We embarked at Avonmouth and went to St. Nazaire in France, and to show you how careful the authorities were in transporting us there I may tell you that the convoying ships followed a zig-zag course all round our ship the entire way across so that no submarine dare show itself above the surface. These torpedoboats went at thirty-five miles an hour while we were doing only about sixteen. The methods followed in the transport of troops have been very successful everywhere, and there has been only one transport torpedoed out of all that have been sent out. I believe the officer in charge of that has been called down for carelessness because they should take no chances whatever.

“After we landed in France we spent two days in the train going to the front. We thought we should be kept behind the lines for a time, but they did us the honor of sending us to the trenches direct. When we got there we went into the famous Ploegsteert or ‘Plugstreet’ as the soldiers call it. We got into the trenches in the evening in small groups in company with the British regulars to give our men an idea of trench fighting, and of the way the trenches were built and how they should be held. They wished to make us perfectly familiar with our duties there. We were obliged to stay there until the next night, for they could not of course move in the daylight. If you move in the daylight you are considered a suicide. You are killed for certain. After we had been in the trenches for about two weeks we were given our part of the line to hold. The general commanding told us that we were a surprise to every officer there, as they did not think we would be able

to take our places in the line at such an early date. That was a compliment to us that we much appreciated. I am glad to be able to say that I was one of the contingent, and I must pay a compliment to the men who went with me, for they deserve all the credit they can get. (Applause.)

“After they had tried us out came the battle of Neuve Chapelle, where we had the first real taste of heavy action. Captain Tupper, of the Highlanders, was one of those engaged; and it was there that we got into real heavy fighting. The Boer war was nothing compared with this war. I had been in South Africa but I found that I knew nothing about war at all. But this I must say, that men who went into war the first time proved themselves just as good as the men who had been through the Boer war. They made just as good progress in learning what they had to learn also.

“The cannonading at the battle of Neuve Chapelle was so intense that you could not distinguish the report of one gun from another. It was what is called drum-fire, one boom following another so fast that you cannot distinguish between them. After the bombardment we were moved back again to divisional billets and rested. General Smith-Dorrien, a general that the British Empire might well be proud of, and a General that the Canadians were proud to serve under, was a magnificent General. I had the honor of serving with his forces in Africa. I do not wish in any sense to boast, but he told us (that is the officers): ‘Gentlemen, I want to tell you that the British War Office and the official staff at the front have every confidence in your ability to hold the most difficult part of the British line.’ He said: ‘If you were not fit to hold it they would never have tried you in it, and this is the proof that they have every confidence in you.’ That part of the line was part of the famous Ypres salient. It is a semi-circular line, and a difficult position to hold for the reason that the enemy artillery can shoot in different directions, including behind you—indeed in almost every direction. The salient was five or six miles long and extended from Ypres. Ypres contained the famous

Cloth Hall where the kings of Belgium are crowned, and the German historians must have had some idea of this, for it is said that the Kaiser anticipated being crowned King of Belgium there. But the British disappointed him. (Laughter.) The British held the place, and then, in disappointment, it is said, he ordered the shelling of the Cloth Hall, which is now in ruins. Some of the statuary was still standing when we got there, but since then it has all gone. That was his vengeance on the town because he could not take it. If the Germans had succeeded in breaking through they would have been able to get to Calais. Their hope was to get to the coast. If they could have done so they would soon settle with France they thought, drive Russia back, increase their fleet, and then make an attack on England. They have been bitterly disappointed in this hope, and hence their bitter hatred for England. If England had not sent troops to the continent they would have accomplished their purpose. When they made their first advance on Paris they came through Belgium and round Metz and Verdun. A British division attempted to cut their line of communications. If they had had a few more troops—if they had had the Canadians for instance—(applause)—they would have altered the whole state of things. Von Kluck went too fast without keeping his line of communications open.

“After we went into the trenches we took over from the French a position turned over to them by the British. The British had made a salient into the German line and handed over parts of it to the French. The French officer from whom I took over my part of the line told me that the Germans had not bothered them much since December, and that was in April. He said they told him that they did not hate the French because they were defending their homes. But it was otherwise with the Canadians. The Canadians he said had no business to be there. They had no business to come there at all. The Kaiser had done much to develop Canada. (Laughter.) The Germans had done much for Canada—more even than the British—they had put money

and capital into Canada and the Canadians had therefore no right to come. He was more incensed against the Canadians than the British. They said indeed, 'We will give them h—l when they come here.' They did. (Laughter.)

"We were only a few days—in fact the first day—in the trenches when we had many killed amongst the men from Vancouver, including Mr. Frank Bowser's son. We got a rough time. But I must tell you that in all my experience of war I never saw men or better men—(applause)—than the men who were with me there—even amongst the British troops. They took it so wholeheartedly; they made sport of it. Indeed you have to do that on the battlefield to keep your courage up. In the morning early when the men would be ordered to 'stand to' you would hear them shouting across to the Germans 'Good morning, Fritz.' Lots of the Germans speak English, and they would frequently reply. One of our men I remember used to shout 'I say, waiter, bring me a sausage.' And the reply used to come. 'Go to hell, you sons of guns.' One morning I was walking along the trenches and a German shouted over—it was just after they had been sinking our boats—'Well, what do you think of your blooming ships now??' Quick as a flash one of our men retorted 'Well, what dy yer think of yer bleedin' nivy nah?' (Laughter.)

"Finally they started in. They said they were going to capture the Canadian division and show them first a little bit of real war, and that it was to be no picnic for them.. They launched an attack with gas but they made no impression. The French line at that place was held by raw new Turcos from the north coast of Africa and they were unable to stand the gas. There was some trouble about it afterwards because these troops should not have been allowed to go into the trenches so soon. The Germans drove them out and they retired towards Poperinghe.

"I am glad we have some of the Sixteenth battalion here today—(applause)—because I want you to know that they fought most nobly. (Applause). This battalion at-

tempted to fill the break in the line. I should tell you that a battalion is supposed to hold only about five hundred yards of line; so when I mention that this battalion had to hold two thousand yards of line you will see how widely separated these men must have been. One of their officers is here with me, and he will corroborate me when I tell you what they did. The Germans worked around our flank and in order to keep from being captured our men had to fight back to back—fighting both ways at the same time. They did this and held the line until supports came. (Loud applause). That is what the Sixteenth battalion helped to do. (Loud applause.)

“We were resting when the call came to us to support the French troops. We went in after they retired, and the Sixteenth battalion was then in front of us with the artillery somewhere in the rear. We met the Sixteenth when it was ordered to retire, and we retired with it for a short distance. I can only speak of what was going on on my immediate front as far as the battle is concerned. A man in action really sees little of what happens around him. You have indeed an awful time. Suffice it to say that we stayed there until we were ordered to retire. We then became the firing line, the front line of troops being driven out by the gas. We remained there with both flanks in the air—both our right and left—and we remained there until we retired by order because the line was driven in in many directions.

“The Germans had, I was told officially, no less than twelve divisions against us. We were there with only one. (Applause.) They had their picked troops there. We know their divisions are stronger than ours; so that it is quite likely they had 200,000 troops against our twenty thousand. (Loud applause.) They did not capture us. We held the line intact. To offset what ground we did lose under the attacks of the gas the British troops in charge on the St. Julien woods retook much ground, so that as far as that was concerned we came out about even. We strengthened our line, which made it more comfortable to live in, and we did

that in a sense without artillery. The artillery was behind us when the action began, and we fell back, so that they had to gallop off and take up a position further to the rear, but still in front of Ypres. Our troops for that time had no support from their artillery, but they held the ground practically unsupported. After they found us still holding the line they gave us support and then we continued to hold it. From reports of conversations with other officers of the battalion I found that my company was only an example of what the others were doing. (Applause.) They stayed in those trenches; they never said a word; they carried out instructions; and trained troops could not have done better.

“The fire of the enemy’s artillery was something terrific. They brought their artillery so close that they could fire straight at us—they were scoring direct hits as military men describe it; and we could see the flashes of the guns. Aviators were over our heads dropping smoke-bombs on the trenches, and by this means the artillery got the range accurately. You would see these smoke-bombs and then you knew you were going to get a fusillade from the artillery. They bombarded us with gun after gun. We tried to count them, but so fast were they firing at us that we could hardly do it. They were firing about 150 rounds a minute—firing in gusts. When they attacked us there came forward rows of men dressed in British uniforms. I was under the impression that they were British soldiers; but we discovered they were Germans, gave them a volley, and then we were sure of it by the way they ran. (Laughter.)

“Our casualties were approximately only fifty per cent. of our fighting strength. When I tell you that the usual percentage is about five you will understand how hot that action was. After that battle there have been occasions in which the Canadians have acquitted themselves well. I see that this week they have been mixing it again with the Germans. I would like to say that those who have since gone to the war have done as well as those who went with us. (Applause.)

“But there is one thing I should like to make clear. The men who have been at the front fighting are not likely, when they return home, to fit in easily into ordinary employment. They become entirely disorganized. Their minds do not take readily to the change—except those perhaps who may be comfortably off. I am speaking from personal experience. After I came home from the South African war I found that to be the case. I am not a lazy man—I can, I think, pat myself on the back to that extent—but when I really tried to go to work I found it took a year or two to get back into my working gait again. I know, therefore, so well how this war will affect the men who are engaged in it. I shall ask you to be patient with these men when they return to you and seek work again. Until they get back again to their normal state of living you must be patient with them. You will remember my words some day perhaps. You have a hard proposition on your hands. Amongst the hundred thousands of men who will return you will have many thousand from every part of the empire—you will have, to put it in plain language, many wasters. They have never been first class men and never will be; but I hope you will not permit such men to sour your mind, and that you will not treat others badly on their account.

“The war is not over yet. More men are wanted. For every division at the front two divisions are kept in England. They figure that they must send fifteen thousand men monthly for each division at the front, and if they do that, Canada, if she has five divisions at the front, will require about 75,000 men monthly if this great drive comes off. The casualties will be larger than ever, and they must be replaced. If one man is shot there must be another ready to take his place. Requirements must be met if things are to be kept going.”

Sir JAS. CARRELL, K.C.M.G., and Hon.
PATRICK McM. Glynn, K.C.M.G.

— ON —

“Parliamentary Union of the Empire.”

(June 3rd, 1916)

A Canadian Club luncheon in honor of Sir James Carroll, K.C.M.G., member for Gisborne, New Zealand, and Hon. Patrick McM. Glynn, K. C., member of the House of Representatives for Angus, South Australia, was held in the Hotel Vancouver, on June 3rd. The Hon. W. J. Bowser, Premier of British Columbia, was also present. Sir James Carroll and Mr. Glynn were on their way to London to attend the conference of the Parliamentary Union of the Empire.

Mr. F. W. Peters, president of the Club, was in the chair, and introduced Messrs. W. F. C. Carncross, E. P. Lee, and C. J. Parr, C.M.G., all of New Zealand.

Sir James Carroll said in part: “I can assure you on behalf of our party, and in conjunction with our members from Australia, we are deeply grateful for the kindness that you have lavished upon us on the occasion of our stay here in your midst. There are many things that one by the necessity of things forgets, but this is an exception.

“Touching on the larger question as to our national destiny, the importance of the times is turning men’s minds to new lines of thought. We have to make an analysis of present conditions to see how things stand, and to endeavor to estimate what the future will be, and what it ought to be. Therefore, in the component parts of our empire, this is what we must do. Australia is so much greater than our Dominion—it is the greatest island continent in the universe, and with it our little Maoriland is but a little inch; so that it requires a brave heart to accept on even terms the invitation to respond to this toast. Still we have to consider ourselves as part of that great solar system of the empire; we are all parts and members of that empire and dissolved in

the magnitude of it, the national embodiment of the British Empire. (Applause.) As some poet has said the dew-drop and the star shine separately but they together glow in one common sunshine. And so it is with us today. It must be so; until we gain supremacy, until we show to the world that we are justified and entitled by our expression of valor, fortitude and determination to seek the solution of the great trouble that throws its shadow over the world. We are combined to fight for freedom, not only for the freedom of Europe but for the liberty that shall be the heritage and the possession of every nation and every people in the world, (applause) not only freedom from a dominant single nationality that wishes to express itself by Prussian methods, but to free us from the ever-recurring danger and perturbation we have endured and to ensure that the peace of the world will continue. We are banded together today for the opening up of channels through which will flow all those things that will be factors in the accomplishment of what we have set ourselves to do—industrially, socially, economically and in every other respect. We are aiming at a higher civilization; we seek higher social and economic conditions, and we look for true social advancement. If this war can be looked at in one way it will be, I think, a blessing in disguise. (Applause.) The words of Kipling, when he proved the empire's sentiments in the sense of a mother and her sons, are true today more than at any time:

“Wards of the outer Marches, Lords of the Lower Seas
We talk to you great Mother who bore us on your knees

“This for the good of your people; this for the Pride of the Race
And we do promise that so long as the blood endures
I shall know your right as mine, ye shall feel that my might is
yours

In the day of Armagedden in the last great fight of all
Our house shall hang together and its pillars shall not fall.”

(Applause.)

“The Overseas Dominions have exemplified to the world what is the true spirit and sentiment in the younger families of nations which have sprung from the loins of

the Motherland. What Canada has done has covered their name with glory. Australia, through her children who have done doughty deeds—deeds which can be more ably touched on by my friend Mr. Glynn—Australia has immortalized herself. (Applause.) New Zealand has joined together with her sister Dominion and has taken her share in the glory and greatness. (Applause.) What a great responsibility, what a great recompense has fallen to that remarkable genius that animated the British Government and constitution in dealing out freedom and liberty to those younger peoples? (Applause).

“In this country of hustle and bustle and business time is precious I know, and I feel I must conform with your customs. I must therefore close; but before I do so I would ask you to join in one strong brotherhood of sentiment—never to be appalled by any news from the war that may carry disastrous reflections with it. Hold on all the more, the more we meet disaster firmly, the stronger we shall always be. (Applause.) We must hold up our heads and be true to the last man and the last gun. We must have faith to look with firm eyes beyond the tragedy of the present strife ‘and trust that out of the night of Death shall rise the dawn of a nobler life.’ ” (Applause.)

Mr. Glynn, who was also loudly applauded, said in part: “Mr. Chairman and members of the Vancouver Canadian Club, may I express my deep sense of the hospitality and courtesy which I in common with my New Zealand colleagues received as we approached the shores of your country and also as we landed. In reference to the country of my birth to which the chairman has referred, and as an Irishman, I may tell on this occasion of our devotion to the throne and of the bearing and significance of a situation which touches us all—the success of a noble fellowship and an Imperial obligation. This is a time that calls for action and in the decisive day we may receive a splendid manifestation of the highest qualities of citizenship. It has been a time of unity of aim and effort, of a spirit of self-sacrifice

throughout the length and breadth of the empire, and throughout that part of which you here in Canada are so splendid a member. Of that empire it may be said that the morning drum-beat wakens us with the sun and keeping company with the hours encircles the globe with an unbroken chain of martial airs. And should you ask me the real significance of this mighty galaxy of nations and states with a population of 400,000,000 of various races and climates and traditions and civilizations and modes of thought, here dense, here scattered, living under foreign forms of government and animated by the most diverse of local ideas, I may point to a common purpose, an Imperial purpose, that governs all from the sovereign system of the Mother country. And what better sign of that purpose, that common purpose, than the fact that here, as in my own country, you hear the Motherland referred to as 'Home?' (Applause.)

“Coming to the federal system of Canada and Australia, the unitary system of South Africa, the fourteen or fifteen Crown colonies such as Mauritius, Ceylon, Fiji and other places, and the number of spheres of influence in which the population lives under the beneficent rule of our administration—when we consider that never was an empire more heterogeneous in its elements, we see a responsibility so Imperial, so universal, and a responsibility marked by such splendid efficiency, how can one in a few discursive sentences such as these hope to give the secret of it?

“Burke said at the time of the American Revolution that our ties then came from common enemies, kindred blood, equal privileges and similar protection. Those ties are strong as links of iron, and they hold the tremendous mass of this imperial organization together today and enable it to make its splendid manifestation of its power so effective. May I refer to the navy for one brief moment. (Applause)? I quoted a few lines yesterday from Froude as to the spirit animating our seamen and our naval power. He talks of the dangers of the Armada and refers to the spirit that responds to the 'wild music of the harp of war

as one does to the breath of the storm.' We cannot do better than imitate that spirit. (Applause.) Our sailors have waited in these northern waters for 22 months, and at last they have got in touch with the enemy.

"The England that the world hears of is not always the real England; it is not the England of the blatant politics of the music hall; no, it is another England, a calm confident, sober England, an England of unobtrusive purpose, an England whose strength has been put forward to save the weaker nations, an England Imperial in its best sense, in scope and purpose, firm in the maintenance of its rights, but never arrogant; aspiring to the best traditions, resourceful and restrained; who has made all men equal in temper to maintain those traditions in this critical hour, and to add to its glory. (Applause.)

"If I say much more I may not be considered as belonging to that peaceful breed known as Irishmen. (Laughter.) I do not think you are animated by a mere wanton or aggressive spirit which the world is gradually beginning to condemn. In one of Treitschke's books—I had to read some 159 pages before I could get through it—(laughter)—through the first volume. It is not an attack on England, but a denunciation of the House of Hapsburg which, he said, produced nothing but turbulent spirits. Perhaps what appears in it will remind our boasting foe of what is before him. It is too soon for him to flutter his flags; and despite what happens we must not be depressed or despondent. There will be much of profit and loss in this war, but we feel that the moral and material issue will fully compensate us for the sacrifice and suffering that our Imperial participation in the war will entail. (Applause.) We feel that the production and expansion of our industries will be resumed again in good times, for good times as inevitably as good seasons will come round again. They will come from Providence again. Britons will have a more honorable and established place than ever in the counsels of European nations and on the whole there will arise a greater sense of common

unity and strength to animate and inspire all the Dominions as well as the Mother Country in their common task of upholding the principles of liberty. (Applause.) As to the heroism of our troops, there is a speech made by Pericles, or rather improvised by Thucydides—made at the end of the Peloponnesian war, which well expresses I think the spirit of the best manhood of our Empire. But before I refer to that I should like to join in the tribute of admiration and respect to the glorious qualities of our womanhood. They have done nobly and well. (Applause.)

‘Thy voice is heard through the rolling drum that beats to battle

Where he stands my face crosses his fancy

And like fire he routs the foe and strikes him dead

For me and thee.’

“And then what Pericles says—how they gave their bodies to the Commonwealth and received each for himself immortal praise and the grandest of all sepulchres—that which exists in the minds of men where their glory remains fresh. ‘For of illustrious men the whole earth is the sepulchre’; their glory lives on for ever without visible symbol woven into the stuff of every man’s life.” (Loud applause.)

Mr. W. J. Bowser, Premier of British Columbia, at the invitation of the chairman, welcomed the guests of the club, and thanked them for the “eloquent and inspiring” addresses they had delivered. On behalf of the people of British Columbia the Premier extended the heartiest welcome to them and dwelt on the importance of their mission to the Mother Country.

SIR RIDER HAGGARD

— ON —

“Empire Settlement.”

(July 4th, 1916.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver on July 4th, when the guests of honor were Sir H. Rider Haggard, the distinguished novelist and Empire-builder, and Mr. E. H. Scammell, secretary of the Military Hospitals Commission, Ottawa. Mr. F. W. Peters occupied the chair.

Sir Rider Haggard said in part: “You wish to hear from me what is the history and what are the objects of the mission upon which I appear before you. Briefly, I may tell you that for some of us at home it has for long seemed that time is not always taken by the forelock; things are left to drift; we are content to deal with them, or rather not to deal with them, after they have arisen and not before. Therefore, in view of certain circumstances which are present to our minds in this matter of dealing with the disbanded soldiers of the empire, we are determined for once to try a different plan, namely, to make preparations before the event. (Applause). We foresaw—and I do not speak for myself here—I realize that it is not me you are honoring, but the Royal Colonial Institute which I represent—we foresaw that at the end of the war, which will happen some day, being full of faith, there must be turmoil and disturbance. We all know the effect of war in the minds of men. Those who are taken from peaceful occupations and thrust into the human inferno do not come out the same as they went in. Their balance, perhaps, is upset; they get new ideas—they mix with other men from far parts of the world and exchange opinions and views with them. Further, we know that after every war that disturbance has taken practical effect in the way of emigration. For instance even

after our last war, the Boer war, which of course is a trifle compared with the present, the emigration was very great—and we observed with sorrow that a very large proportion of it did not take place to the Dominions of the Crown. Therefore I was asked whether I would, as the honorary representative of the Institute, undertake the somewhat arduous journey round the world, to see, should these prognostications of ours prove to be correct, what welcome would be given to the disbanded soldiers of the Crown if they wished to settle in new lands, but still beneath the shadow of the old flag. (Applause). I answered what any one of you would have answered, that being now unfortunately too old to volunteer to fight again I would do this as my war-work. (Applause.) I accepted that invitation and started on my long journey. But there is one point which I wish to make clear. It is this—that neither the Royal Colonial Institute nor I have the slightest wish to promote emigration from the British Isles. Our desire is rather the other way. Old students of this subject such as I am—I have given twenty years of my life to the consideration of conditions on the land and their inferential effect upon civilization and our national life—old students, I say, like myself, are well aware that the land of England is today too much denuded owing to a variety of causes such as the fiscal policy—and it would be a very good thing for England, which after all sucks its strength from that land, if it could be re-peopled. We all feel that, and efforts are being made in that direction—small efforts, and whether they will succeed or not I cannot tell you.

“I hope I have made clear to you that I do not appear before you as the protagonist of any scheme of emigration. I appear before you as one who desires you to consider and prepare to deal with any immigration which may spontaneously arise. That is the position. Now what is it that we want? Briefly, I am here to ask that wherever a servant of the Crown in arms may wander within the British realms, there he may be greeted as a brother and receive a welcome

equal to that given one born in the land itself. I am very proud to tell you that throughout great regions of the world I am able to report that I have achieved that end. (Applause.) The doors of Australia are now open in every State. When I went there, there had been a sort of conference of Ministers of Agriculture and others from all the States and it had been decided to pass by this question of the Imperial soldier and his settlement on Australian lands as one too heavy to handle. This at least had been done by inference, inasmuch as the matter was brought up in the form of a resolution which was passed thereat. How different is the tale today! Every State now says it will welcome such men—some by specific gifts, either on the basis which I chiefly desire, namely to treat these men like its own soldiers whatever that may be, or in other ways. Australia may be proud of them. I never had a happier moment than when I was able to cable a despatch in these words: 'The door is open throughout Australia.' (Applause.)

"New Zealand is most friendly, and will bear her part I am sure. When I came here to British Columbia and attended a meeting, on the table in front of me I saw a copy of an Act, the Soldiers' Homestead Act of the present year. I threw my eye over that Act and, being a lawyer accustomed to seize the points in a document, I saw at once that it absolutely barred a subject of the Crown from taking the slightest advantage of its provisions unless he was born or resident in British Columbia. At once I was up against a dead wall. I had to cable home and say that 'Legislation has been already passed which by inference bars the British soldier or sailor from settling in British Columbia. I will do what I can but I cannot hope for much in face of this accomplished fact.'

"I am glad to be able to tell you that in this matter I attained more than I ventured to hope, for I saw your Premier. I put before him all these arguments and considerations, and I have to report to you that he took my view of the matter and wrote me a brief letter which I think you

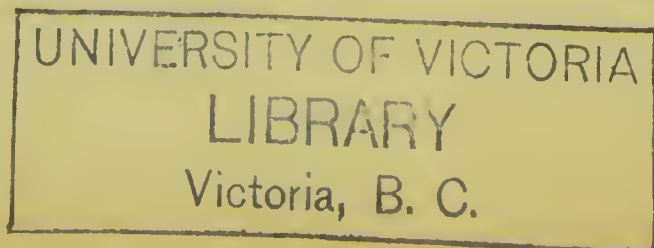
would perhaps like to hear. It is dated yesterday and runs: 'With reference to our conversation this morning as to your mission, I have the honor to inform you that the Government of British Columbia is prepared to extend to all United Kingdom ex-service men and their families conditions as regards settlement or otherwise similar to those given our returned Canadians soldiers.'

"There are then certain quite necessary stipulations about selection, and the letter goes on 'Our government will look favorably on any such proposition as may attract suitable settlers from the ranks of our armies abroad, as we wish to do our share in endeavoring to reward them in some slight degree for their devotion in this great emergency. I may say that I will be prepared to introduce at the next session of the legislature such measures as may be necessary in this respect. These details will have to be worked out in the interval.'

"I am convinced that you will congratulate the Royal Colonial Institute on this happy issue, as I congratulate you and your government on the generous treatment they have accorded to it.

"I should not have liked to go home and say the doors are open in Australia but not in British Columbia. But now the door is as wide here as anywhere else.

"Is it not scandalous that, with all the wealth of this empire which extends throughout the world, our citizens must seek a living under an alien flag and on alien shores? (Applause.) You know it is, and you know now the necessities of the case. Are you all such optimists that you can believe that when this war does terminate it will terminate for good? I cannot think so. I will give you one reason only. As you are aware we have taken the German colonies. The one in China is gone; South West Africa is gone; all the islands of the seas around Australia are gone; East Africa is going; the Kameruns have gone. Not a stitch, not an acre of land is left to them. What is going to be the effect of that upon such a people? This point I make certain.



These lands cannot be restored for this reason—that in almost every case they have been taken by the soldiers and sailors of the various Dominions, and these Dominions would never consent to their restoration. In my view this is quite proper. But I ask you to judge of the effects. This colonial empire has been the apple of the eye of Germany. It has been building it for the last quarter of a century. It is its last child, its beloved child. How will the loss of it affect the temper of the Germans who are left? You may say that they will be broken. But broken nations rise again. The women remain. And what is more, their souls will be filled with hatred of Great Britain. Remember this: by now Germany would have been queen of the world. She would have smashed France—almost she did it. She would have driven back Russia, and then she would have fallen upon us. We intervened; we queered her pitch; we spoiled her game; and do you think she is going to forget it?

“Well, we must be prepared; we must know always in the future as an empire that the sword of Damocles hangs over us. We must be no longer drifting along in indolence in the search for wealth and pleasure and in party politics, but must be the strong men armed and prepared to resist aggression. We have entered this war with many and great allies. But who knows in the changing kaleidoscope of Fate what the future may have in store? Who knows a score of years hence how many allies may stand to our credit? We may perhaps be obliged to face a world in arms alone. If so let us be ready to face it. (Applause.) How can we be ready except by keeping our own people—not allowing them to go away to strengthen and build up other nations. Oh, it is no question of money or benevolence. It is a question of our existence. The first duty we owe to the empire is to see that not one of its sons or daughters is taken from it because they have no place in which to place their foot or pillow on which to lay their head. Think of what is going on today in the world. You

may have a vision of those trenches, red with blood, those singing bullets and bursting shells, death and misery and the wounds all undergone that we may sit here in peace and—talk; and take counsel together; all incurred that our women may be safe and that our land may remain inviolate. Think of what is due to those who survive. I suppose there are few here who have not losses to mourn in this war. Since I got here I have heard that a godson of my own, a gallant young naval officer, to whom I was extremely attached, has gone in a peculiarly dreadful way. And so it is day after day. There are few families who do not know it to their cost. I have no more to say but—shall it be in vain? (Loud applause.)

Mr. Scammell said: "Sir Rider Haggard has brought before us in terms which cannot be misunderstood a view of the momentous state of the British Empire today—momentous not only because we are engaged in the most titanic struggle of history, but momentous because there lies before us a great period of reconstruction and a great period in which we shall be tested to our foundations. We speak of this war as being a crisis in the history of democracy. Believe me, the crisis in the history of democracy will be during the next ten years. Sir Rider Haggard has referred to the broad empire issue, but as the empire is made up of its component parts it is well for us to consider, I think, at the same time the issues that come more nearly home. Twelve months ago almost to the day the government of Canada appointed a commission charged with the duty of providing convalescent homes for our returned wounded. They honored me by appointing me secretary of that Commission, and they gave to that Commission a rather large order. But it was since found that our powers must be extended if we were to deal adequately with the situation.

"The duty of preparing for peace in Canada was placed on the shoulders of the Military Hospitals Commission. We have three distinct branches of our work, the first the provision of convalescent hospitals and homes where our men

can recover somewhat the health they have lost. We are seeking to put in practice the real meaning of that parable of the potter who takes a broken vessel and makes it whole again. (Applause.) I am glad to say that stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific we have twenty-one of such hospitals and homes. The second feature of our work is equally important. After every previous war men have returned to their homes and they have had to face the future just as they were. The government of Canada determined that that should not be the case in this fair land, and so we were empowered to arrange for vocational training for men whose disabilities prevented them returning to their previous occupations. We have appointed vocational officers in the various provinces. We have started in our convalescent hospitals and homes classes where men can brush up their elementary training and receive instructions in such arts as bookkeeping, mechanical drawing, wood-work, and so forth. We have found that these classes have had a distinct therapeutic and educational value. Our men are getting better because their minds are occupied.

“I have the pleasure to announce that this morning I received a telegram from Ottawa stating that an order-in-council which was prepared some time ago empowering the commission to pay the maintenance of the men and their families who were undergoing vocational training has been passed by the government. This will cost money, but I do not believe there is a man in Canada who will raise his voice or exercise his vote against such an expenditure. (Applause.)

“The third main division of our work deals with employment. Last October a conference of the Prime Ministers of the various provinces was held to consider how best to provide for the future. A report which I had the honor of preparing went to that conference, and as a result provincial commissions have been appointed all over Canada charged with the duty of appointing committees in all centres from which the men have come. I am pleased to know

that in this province there are already arranged, or almost completely arranged, committees in no less than 76 centres. I am also glad to know that this commission is not merely representative of the Government, but representative of the Opposition. This is not a party question; no party and no creed must enter into the problem, or into the solution of the problem of dealing adequately and efficiently with our returned soldiers.

“I should like to sound a word of warning. These men who return to us, some wounded, some otherwise disabled, some apparently well are not normal. The shocks of continual shells; the long hours in the trenches have had their effect. These men will go to situations which have been kept open for them or provided for them. Do not expect too much from them to begin with. Remember that for months to come these men will not be able to perform the same duties that they performed before they went away, and they need patience and care. But that patience and care must not go too far in one respect. The report published a few weeks ago by Sir Arthur Pearson concerning the blind institution to which our men as well as the men of the British Expeditionary forces are admitted contained this note: ‘Do not be too sentimental. Do not pamper the men.’ And he has had, he states in the report, to lay it down absolutely that the men get better quickly when they have to stand on their own feet and are left to their own exertions. The ladies of the Canadian Clubs of Canada, the ladies of the Daughters of the Empire, the various voluntary associations which have been formed have done magnificent work, but sometimes they have been doing a little too much. Sometimes we have had to restrain them because they have been inclined to pamper them too much. I do not say this unkindly, but out of experience in dealing with large numbers of men. If you want to make a returned soldier into a citizen, into the citizen he was before, or if possible into a better citizen, you must do it in the manly way.

“Some of the people of Vancouver have given most gen-

erously to movements connected with returned soldiers.

“We are looking towards the settlement in this country in their industrial pursuits of our soldiers; we are looking towards a great future. We are looking after this war to a more united British Empire. We who love the old flag mean to keep it floating and keep its honor unstained. Some of us have a vision for the future. Let me express that vision in the words of the immortal Milton:

“ ‘Methinks I see a great and puissant nation raising herself like a strong man after sleeping and shaking her invincible locks. Methinks I see her as an eagle renewing her mighty youth and kindling her undazzled eyes at the mid-day beam.’ ”

MAJOR A. P. PROCTER
— ON —
“The Saloniki Campaign.”

(July 12th, 1916.)

Major A. P. Procter, M.D., was the guest of the Canadian Club luncheon in the Hotel Vancouver, on Wednesday July 12th, 1916. Mr. F. W. Peters, presided.

Major Procter said: “The part we have played in this struggle has been insignificant, very little indeed, compared with the part played by the fellows in the trenches. I want to say that the medical profession has deemed it one of the greatest privileges of its life to be able to go over there to be of some small service to these men. Our part, compared with what they have done, has been very little indeed. I want to tell you, gentlemen, that I came back feeling prouder than I ever was before of being a citizen of the British Empire, and I want to tell you that nothing made me prouder than to be able to walk down the streets of the old country with the badge of Canada on my shoulder. (Applause.) I suppose you know that the men you sent from this country and from the West have burned their way into the hearts of the nation in type of fire.

“I suppose you want to hear from me something of the Eastern Mediterranean theatre of war, at which we arrived after a voyage free from the menace of submarines. Saloniki, looked at from the harbor, appears to be a most picturesque Turkish city. The houses and the mosques from which the priests call the faithful to worship are picturesque, they look very beautiful. When you get to it, and you smell Saloniki, it still remains eminently Turkish. The people of the country don't know very much about sanitation, and they don't bother very much about it. When we first went to Saloniki the French army was sent there in an endeavor to relieve Serbia, but unfortunately it was too

late. The question you may ask yourself is 'Why did we go to Saloniki too late?' We only began this war two years ago, when we only had a small army to send to France. Then we began to manufacture rifles, and train soldiers, so that, at the only time we could relieve Serbia we had not got the men. We sent them as soon as we could; we sent them the following September, in 1915. We had had to send men to France, to Egypt, to Africa and to Gallipoli. It was too late. It was a mountainous country, and there was only a single track railway. The roads in the northern country were simply trails over which it was impossible to transport very heavy guns. When we found we were unable to relieve Serbia there was a retirement on Saloniki, which was made as impregnable as it was possible to make it.

"You may ask the question 'Why are we at Saloniki?'" That question has been asked a good many times since I came here. I am not in the secrets of the War Office, but I hardly need tell you that Saloniki has the only railroad between the Adriatic and the Bosphorus, leading up to Austria and Germany, and if we were not there the Germans would be, and would have established a submarine base to harass the Eastern Mediterranean. It was the only inlet and outlet of the northern country. At the end of 2,000 years one of the chief difficulties we had to contend with, when it was of paramount importance to get the men and guns there, was that there was not sufficient wharfage, only enough for one or two ships in the harbor. It is an absolutely unprogressive country, and the people did not seem to be able to spare the time to build up the country and to develop one of its great natural resources. The position was a precarious one, because, had our people taken it at that time we might not have been able to hold it. But they did not do things in any such precarious manner. Saloniki lends itself to the making of a mighty fortress. There was a range of low hills to the west of the harbor and the Varda River comes in from the north. The range of low hills would be immensely strong if fortified and held by France

had had to take a submerged net at 90 feet. The first time they were not quite sure what speed they should take it at, and at what depth. You can imagine their feelings as they heard the net scraping against the sides of the submarine, but finally there was a bang, and they were through. Submarine B11 accounted for over 200 vessels in the Sea of Marmora, most of them being sunk by direct gun fire, larger ones being sunk by torpedoes. But torpedoes were expensive, and if they missed their mark they went back and picked them up. The submarine would come slowly to the surface and look around, and if there was nothing near, one of the men would dive overboard, take the percussion head from the torpedo and it would be retrieved. Do you wonder that I have not much fear for the nation when it produces fellows like that.

“I saw a Zeppelin shot down as it came over our camp. It was about two o’clock in the morning. Another came over in February, and a 9.2 inch gun was brought into play. Search lights soon picked it up, and the Agammemnon put a shot right through it. It did not come down quickly, but it came down gradually, amidst cheers from the war ships. It settled on the mud flats, around which the French put a patrol, and the next day they captured the crew. The men were taken away in a motor lorry but the captain was taken in a Ford car, and he shed tears. (Laughter.)

“When some Germans from an aircraft that had been brought down were being taken across the harbor they were blindfolded, so they could not see the entrance where the nets were. The German captain said if he was going to be shot he would prefer not to be blindfolded. This was too much for a Jack Tar who was standing near, and he asked in a gruff voice: ‘What do you take us for—bloody Huns?’ (Laughter.)

“Dreadful as this war has been, I am firmly convinced it brings to us certain lessons. Whatever we may like to think, Germany, during the past few years, has been taking trade from us hand over fist. When I first went to Sal-

oniki I met a gentleman who had travelled largely to and from South America during the past few years, and he told me it almost made his heart ache to see the way Germany was taking away the trade from Great Britain. For months after the war broke out certain drugs could absolutely not be obtained. Analyne dyes, also, were absolutely in the hands of Germany. One could hardly go to a store in the country without finding goods of all sorts and conditions marked 'Made in Germany.' You cannot tell me that a nation which can build in two years a fighting machine equal to that which took Germany 40 years to build, cannot, if it exerts itself, protect its own trade. It seems to me the reply lies in the establishment of technical schools, where the young people may train their minds and fit themselves for this competition. Also, as a result of the war, I think we should have some form of military service for our people. It would be a fine thing for them physically. What I think our people have not understood, and what this war has taught us is that we owe a duty to the State for the privilege of living in this free and mighty country. It would be some sort of repayment to the State, to the country in which we live, and move and have our being. It is a question of duty that the Germans seem to have understood much better than we have. Social disturbances and strikes horrified us before the war, and the Empire seemed to mean so little to some men that they actually went on strike for a halfpenny an hour more while our men at the front were crying out for shells to fire at the Germans. Bearing in mind these things it seemed that the Empire means very little to a large portion of the people living amongst us.

"Then there are the women. Women were always a problem, a delightful problem. I want to say to you that I have not eloquence enough at my command to do justice to the work of the women in this war. I am told that the women solved the ammunition question. They have largely stopped these strikes by shaming the men out of them. I am told that in Glasgow the women settled the last strike on

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the Clyde by having a fight with the men, killing six of them and maiming about 50 others. After all the work that the women have done at home and all through the Empire to solve some of these questions I think if they want the vote they have earned the right to have it. (Applause.)

“I want to say this: I come back without the slightest fear of the future. Nothing could have been nobler than the sacrifices made by certain classes at home. When I was in London a couple of weeks ago the atmosphere was entirely different. I arrived there in the week the news was learned of Kitchener’s death, and shortly after the battle in the North Sea. We now know that battle resulted in victory, but it was clearly brought home to the people what it would have meant had anything happened to the fleet. The atmosphere was entirely different. I went to a service in Westminster Abbey, filled with tablets to the great dead of the nation. Many of them were very young men, but their names were emblazoned in history. I realized how these men, men who had position and money, and everything that made life worth living, had worked for the glory of the nation, and I felt that a nation that could produce such men as these could not be allowed to perish. (Applause.) I had the same feeling when I heard the news of the death of Captain Scott, in the Antarctic, the same feeling when I heard of the myriads of gallant deeds in this war. When we think of a nation that can produce such men as these I think we can go on and that we need not have much fear for the future.

“I want to say that the nation stands for a greater measure of truth, justice and liberty. The message that I bring is the watchword of the fleet. Carry on. We will carry on and we will win the war, not only through force of arms and our military power, but because we have earned the right; because of the great things we have accomplished in matters of commercial and social enterprise. We shall do great things and we shall succeed because we have earned the right to be there.” (Applause.)

HON. DR. W. J. ROCHE

— ON —

“Canada and the War.”

(July 24th, 1916.)

Hon. Dr. W. J. Roche, Minister of the Interior, was the guest of the Canadian Club at luncheon at the Hotel Vancouver, on Wednesday, July 24th, over which Mr. F. W. Peters presided.

Dr. Roche said in part:

“Canadians are a peace loving people. No better evidence of that is required than that we have lived on terms of friendship for over 100 years with our neighbors south of that boundary line. Disputes have been settled in no other manner than through peaceful negotiations, and while, at times, we in Canada may have considered that our neighbors may have had the better of us, there was no other idea at the time than that it was a privilege common to the American people, and everything had been settled without the arbitrament of arms.

“Although desirous of living on terms of peace and amity with others, when the present conflict broke out it was simply impossible for England to keep out, and to stand aloof, without dishonor and incurring the reproach of the entire civilized world. Honor is as essential on the part of nations as it is of individuals, and woe betide the country that ignored the demands of honor. Germany has done so, and she will shortly pay the penalty. It would be superfluous on my part to enter into the many details of the extent to which England's national honor had been involved.

“At the end of a long drawn out war England, France, Germany, Russia and Austria had guaranteed the independence of integrity of Belgium, and when the representative statesmen who signed the document on behalf of their countries attached their signatures, it either meant something or nothing. If it meant something then its terms

should have been lived up to to the letter, just as we would expect a private individual to live up to his word. If it meant nothing it was a farce for sensible people to sit down and so solemnly engage in such a covenant. England had always regarded it as a solemn obligation, not only to be lived up to by herself but to see that others lived up to it as well.

“France remained faithful to the pledge, but to the country of militarism, civilization and kultur is was merely a scrap of paper, to be torn up and cast aside before the exigencies of the Fatherland.

“When judging England we generally judge her as the England of years gone by. In 1870, at the time of the Franco-German war, England asked the opponents their intentions with regard to Belgium’s neutrality. While Belgium had more to fear at the hands of France than she had at the hands of Germany, nevertheless France unhesitatingly gave the required assurance. Bismarck said it was entirely superfluous to ask that of Germany. He seemed to be indignant that the good faith of the country should even be called into question. At the beginning of the present crisis, the German Imperial Chancellor, in August, 1914, was asked what assurances he would give to guarantee the neutrality of Belgium, and, to the everlasting dishonor of his country, he repudiated what should have been the solemn bond and obligation of the German people. England, in 1871, received the thanks of the Belgian nation, in a letter to Queen Victoria giving voice to the thanks of the people for the sentiments of the hearts of the people of Great Britain. In the war of 1870 France surrendered when her armies could have saved themselves simply by stepping over into Belgium territory, but she preferred humiliation, ruin, and defeat rather than break her bond. (Applause.) One hundred thousand Frenchmen, including generals and an Emperor, preferred capture rather than bring dishonor on their country. It would have been to the interest of France to have violated the treaty in 1871, but to her ever-

lasting credit she did not do so. It was to the interest of Germany that she should violate the treaty in 1914, and to her everlasting dishonor she did so, calling down upon her the condemnation of almost the entire civilized world. When England asked the intentions of Germany and France in 1870, France said she had not the slightest intention of violating the treaty, and Germany replied that it was absolutely unnecessary to ask. When, in 1914, England asked them their intentions, France said she would observe the treaty but Germany refused to answer, showing that in her mind treaties would be observed just so long as it was in her interests to observe them, breaking her word as much as the individual who refused to redeem his word showed that his 'I promise to pay' was so much waste paper. Germany set up the adage that 'Might is Right,' and carried the war into Belgium, calling down just condemnation upon the head of the Kaiser. No one in any country knew better than Germany that Belgium as a law-abiding people, and her adherence to her principles has brought her national humiliation; her fields have been laid waste, her beautiful cities and towns, with their treasures of writings and art, and her industries have been destroyed; her women and children have been mutilated; thousands of her people are homeless in their own country and have little to eat, save that which is provided for them through the charity of other countries; and thousands more are being cared for in England, France, and Holland, and all this because they trusted the word of honor of the Prussian King.

"Germany invaded Belgium to gain time. Speed was her greatest asset. But to gain time what have they lost? They have lost their good name, they have lost the good name which should have been the greatest asset of a self-respecting people. Germany had long ago been preparing for this, and the most powerful engines of destruction had been created by a war mad king to inculcate in the rest of the world the lessons of the German cult of terror. The murder of an Austrian archduke was not the cause, but was

made the pretext of Germany's action. In the minds of those who had been working for military and financial preparedness it was the proper time to strike, to give the Imperial war machine and war class a chance. It could not be said that England had not been warned of the impending catastrophe. Some statesmen had raised their voices in the cause of preparedness. Lord Roberts, the Grand Old Man of the British Army, speaking at Manchester in 1912, when past his 80th mile stone, cried out, 'Arm, prepare to quit yourselves like men; for the day of your ordeal is at hand!' How prophetic those words, in the light of subsequent events.

"The German minister is responsible to the German Emperor. The British Ministers are responsible to the British people. It is autocracy versus democracy. They are antagonistic; they are incompatible and they cannot merge. That is why the Germans cannot understand the British mind, and the motive animating the nation. It is also true that Germans have many good qualities which Britons might emulate with advantage to themselves, but in questions of world politics the two nations are headed in exactly opposite directions. Germany believes that might is right, that the end justifies the means. In England such doctrines are repugnant. When two such forces come to grips one or other must down; you and I are convinced which will down. (Applause).

"Canada is an integral portion of the British Empire and Canadians will not be found wanting. We have been justifiably proud of the wonderful progress and prosperity which our country has had for many years. What has rendered the progress and prosperity possible next to the enterprise, industry and energy of the Canadian people? What has been the power behind the throne has been the influx into Canada of British capital? But even then the progress and prosperity would not have been possible had it not been for the protection afforded to the country by the power and prestige of the British navy. Now that

we have reached years of maturity we should, to the last man and last dollar, aid the motherland in her time of trial. I am glad to see how loyally the British Empire has rallied to the support of the Motherland. Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, have all come forward to do their utmost. Our brave men and noble women are doing their duty. Some are giving their gold; some are giving their blood; some are giving their blood and gold; some are giving noble self-sacrificing efforts.

“I wish to pay a tribute to the splendid women of Canada. In season and out of season, day in and week out, they have labored to provide comforts and necessities for the boys in the trenches. Canada is endeavoring to do her duty. As with Canada so it is with other portions of the British Empire. This is the result of British rule which has raised one of the greatest Imperial structures the world has ever known.”

MAJOR THE REV. C. C. OWEN

— ON —

“Life at the Front.”

(July 31st, 1916.)

Major the Rev. C. C. Owen, chaplain of the 29th Regiment, “Tobin’s Tigers,” was the guest of honor at a luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club, held in the Hotel Vancouver on July 31st. In the chair was Rev. Principal Vance.

Major the Rev. C. C. Owen said:

“There is just one word at the outset that I would like to say. I may surprise you. I want to tell you I am not speaking as a sky pilot, or as a padre, or as a devil-dodger (laughter), as they sometimes call us over there, but I am speaking as a citizen, and I am speaking as a Canadian, and I am speaking as a Christian, I hope. And I want to emphasize very strongly today such a question as when this war will be over, and everything connected with this war depends absolutely and first of all upon God, and the great mistake we have made lies in departing from the old customs of the past. But I am delighted to see our generals and our admirals and men like the premier of Australia referring again and again to the necessity of us putting our trust in the only right place. I want to begin by emphasizing the intense importance of that in our struggle today. I had the privilege the last night before I left the front, this night three weeks ago, of seeing the 29th battalion. They were having their sports, I remember, and as I got there there was a mule race. That race was interrupted by aeroplanes which were having a squabble overhead. I remember we had our little bugler in that mule race and he won it. Major Tait was there and Colonel Tobin bore testimony to the appreciation of what all those connected with the 29th had done. They had, he said, received splendid support in looking after the sick and wounded and the prisoners of war.

and I know he was looking carefully—being a lawyer—after the money that has been so generously sent him (laughter). He had been sending supplies to the prisoners every week and the money was not exhausted yet.

“We have a great many different specialists now at the front. One of them is Major Schlatter, who is now the head of the sniper’s school. I wondered at first if he was just the right man for the work, but since he has taken it over everyone has spoken in glowing terms of the way in which he trained the snipers. In this respect we have got the Huns beaten. At first the Huns had the best of the sniping game, but our men here in the West had done a little shooting before they went there and now they know more about it than the Huns do (applause). In regard to the matter of bomb throwing the cricket bowler curiously enough is better than the baseball pitcher. A bomb must be thrown overarm, not pitched directly—so the cricketers are specially favored for this kind of work. Bombs and rifle grenades are another special thing for which we have to have officers specially trained. Those officers have been taken out of the battalions for special duty and they are now elsewhere. In this way some of the Regiments have lost a good many of their officers. But their places have been supplied by the non-commissioned officers, and of them I must say that I do not think you could find better trained or more capable men than those you find in the ranks (applause). Colonel Tobin, I may tell you, has encouraged in every way he can the granting of commissions to well-qualified non-commissioned officers. You can easily understand that there are many of the men in our rank and file who are as well educated as any officer. There were men I knew whose relatives were titled people. One man in particular—I buried him—used to write to Queen Alexandra ‘Dear Cousin,’ and Her Majesty used to reply to him in similar terms. That man was a private in the ranks in one of our battalions at the front.

“Now these men are just as well fitted, owing to their

experience in the ranks, to make remarkably good officers. (Applause).

“Well, we have lost a good many of our best officers through their being taken for special duty; but in our regiment we have the finest body of commissioned officers you could find; men with practical experience, knowing how to handle men. (Applause).

“The present position of the war is what I would like next to refer to. We all know the story. Having driven back Russia Germany thought her task was all but done. But Russia has not been driven back to stay (applause), and there is nothing more marvellous than the way in which she has held the far end of the line and is now advancing again and making it untenable for her enemy. Indeed, we cannot speak too highly of the splendid work our allies altogether are doing. And in that respect I want to speak of the work your Returned Soldiers' Clubs are doing. It is something the need of which will increase, and while you are certain to have lots of old soldiers of a certain type whom you will need to watch, you will have many others who have lost everything for your sakes, lost everything that makes life worth while. To look after these men, and to look after those who will need work and opportunities will be the noblest work that can be done by you.

“I should like to say that of all the things that have been done by these men at the front I have heard of none better than those that have been done by the Vancouver regiments, and especially that regiment I have had the honor to be connected with.” (Loud applause.)

LIEUT.-COL. H. S. TOBIN

— ON —

“The Fighting 29th.”

(August 29th, 1916)

Lieut.-Col. H. S. Tobin, of “Tobin’s Tigers,” was the guest of honor of the Vancouver Canadian Club on August 29, when a luncheon was given in the Hotel Vancouver. Mr. F. W. Peters was in the chair.

Col. Tobin said in part:

“I am going to tell you as shortly as I can what the 29th battalion saw since it left England until I left France after ten months there. I am going to mention no names because if I did I should have to mention the whole battalion. Some men in the battalion, it is true, have been singled out for awards of merit, but where one has received it hundreds have deserved it. (Applause).

“We left England in September last year. We crossed the channel and we were enabled to do so by the might of the British fleet. (Applause). During the whole of this war, I should like to say, not a single life has been lost in the transport of troops to the front. We saw very little of the working of the British navy, but we saw something of it from our camp at Shorncliffe. The Channel, I should tell you, is patrolled by dirigibles which, from their height above the water, can see underneath the surface and spot submarines or mines. Well, one day we left Shorncliffe and marched all night to Folkestone, where we waited for some time. Then we were told we could not go that day as the Channel was not safe. So we marched back again some distance and camped in the fields for the night. Next day we proceeded to France, the 29th being conveyed on board a French boat escorted by destroyers. On arriving at Boulogne we marched to a rest camp. The following morning about 4 o’clock we marched to the station at Boulogne and

entrained. After ten hours travelling we detrained and marched to our billets. Up till then we had seen no actual evidence of the war except the troops in all directions—French as well as English. We came into a straggling French village and to our billets, the men sleeping in the barns and some of the officers being lucky enough to get real beds. Next morning we could hear the guns and we saw an aeroplane fight overhead. One of the German planes was over our lines. We saw captive balloons which are everywhere in evidence and are used for artillery observation purposes. We were one day in billets there and then proceeded quite close to the lines to the corps reserve. This was just prior to the fighting around Loos on the 26th September last. After being there two days we met Gen. Currie, Col. Leckie and Gen. Leckie, as well as Col. Odlum. (applause), and after that Gen. Alderson addressed the battalion. He told us that there had been a sudden call and notwithstanding the fact that it is usual for the officers to see the trenches before the men are sent into them we were entrusted with the first line without further training. We were ordered to go in at night. We marched after dark in the pouring rain through Neuve Eglise expecting to be fired on every moment. When we arrived eight or nine miles further on we were conducted into the trenches. They were not, as we supposed, a continuous straight line. Some of them even went round in a circle, so that we call one section the ‘Bull Run.’ Well, we were told to watch the trench opposite, and you may be sure we did. We went on firing most of the night and in the darkness we even fired at our own men, because we could not make out exactly where the trenches were. Fortunately there were no casualties. (Laughter).

“The Third Battle of Ypres will give you an idea of life in the trenches. I will describe as well as I can what took place at St. Eloi. I was not present, for I was on leave at the time, and the first piece of bad luck happened when I was away. It has been said that the average of cas-

ualties in our battalion was slight. That was so for the first six months with practically none, and then in two weeks at St. Eloi we lost 256 men, which brought our average up. At the Battle of Ypres altogether our brigade lost 1100 men, but we, ourselves, lost only nine killed. Most of you know that the Germans attacked our lines and inflicted heavy losses on the Canadian Mounted Rifles and killed Gen. Mercer and Gen. Williams. A German soldier's notebook I have here gives an account of the attack. He writes in it that the attack began at 11 o'clock on the 2nd June. It commenced with artillery fire until 3 o'clock, when the assault began. Three lines of English trenches were carried by the 125th and 121st Regiments. In the attack everything that mankind has discovered was used—gas, fire, prussic acid—it was like a witch's cauldron, or like the world coming to an end. The English counter-attacks were repulsed. And the appalling artillery fire! Our dead were sent back, many with heads or arms or legs blown off. The trenches were all shot to pieces and levelled, and everything was one mad chaos.'

"The brigade in which we were was ordered to replace the C. M. R. brigade at Ypres. We went up amidst indescribable shelling. As far as you could see there was nothing but lines of flame, and the noise was deafening. Before we got far along the road we were stopped by the Provost people. A store of bombs had taken fire and we had to hit it out into the fields to reach the place we set our for. We stayed there for the night and next morning we went into Ypres. At the brigade headquarters I got a message from Col. Macdonell—'Big Jim'— offering to do what he could for us.

"I have seen the desolation of San Francisco after the earthquake, but it was nothing to Ypres. The town is completely in ruins. British guns are concealed everywhere and the place is simply bristling with them. We were ordered out of Ypres when we got there—a battalion in the

front line had suffered heavy casualties from a mine, and we were ordered into the front line, remaining there until the German trenches were re-taken. Actually there was shelling for thirteen days. A regular programme of artillery preparation was carried out. Every gun the British could concentrate in that position was brought to bear on the German lines. It was a pretty good thing, because earlier in the year we had been suffering. Our guns had replied very gingerly, and there was a sort of feeling that the German gunner was the better man and had more munitions. But at the battle of Ypres we fired 36,000 rounds on one day, and this went on from the 3rd to the 13th. On that day, at 3 o'clock in the morning, the attack was delivered by the 16th battalion which was largely composed of Vancouver men. Col. Jack Leckie was in the third wave and found himself in the German trench alone with twenty Germans. He held them up with his revolver. He did not even take it out of his holster (laughter), for he did not have time. The 7th Battalion under Maj. Humble also took part in the assault. My own battalion, however, did not leave its trenches, contenting itself with putting out smoke bombs and maintaining a rapid fire until such time as the capture of the German trenches took place. We remained there until the position was consolidated.

"I have described the trenches but I have said nothing about what we do. Our whole policy is one of annoyance. We feel it our duty to annoy the enemy all we can, and any method that will do so is utilized. The results, perhaps, have been slow, but in the last year during which Kitchener's army has been built up, we have attained an undoubted superiority and ascendancy which we did not previously possess. (Applause.) The success of our raids has been always marked; that was not so before. It shows that there is a weakening of the morale and discipline of the enemy. This is proved also by the number of deserters. Of course I do not wish you to think that the German is

broken; he is still very strong and we have a long way to go to beat him; but we are going to beat him and we all feel it." (Applause.)

MR. F. R. JONES, OF THE OVERSEAS CLUB

— ON —

“London in War Time.”

(September 11th, 1916)

Mr. F. R. Jones, of the Overseas Club, of London, and the chief Overseas cities of the British Empire, was the guest of the Vancouver Canadian Club at a luncheon given in the Hotel Vancouver on September 11. Rev. Principal Vance presided.

Mr. Jones said: “I promised your secretary and president I would say something about London in war-time; but I am conscious that I have another matter in my mind as well and if you do not hear all you would like to know about London in war time it will be because of that other matter which is weighing on my heart more heavily.

“London in war time is not a desirable place to live in. You read all sorts of things in the newspapers, and the reports these last days I must say have been very encouraging. I hope, however, these reports will not make us feel over-sure of ourselves; we have a long way to go yet and the great German military machine built up for 44 years with fiendish ingenuity is not about to collapse as readily as we may be inclined to think. Nothing of the kind. The price must be paid first, and precious blood and precious lives expended in paying it. We should feel that we may have to face three years and possibly longer of war. The Germans started this business. But we also know that we are going to finish it. (Applause.)

“In August, 1914, no one who was then in London will ever forget the tenseness of those days or in August and September of the coming of the Belgium refugees to England. And we shall never forget the thrill that passed through us when we knew that the thing that we had long dreaded had at last become an accomplished fact. We were

at war with Germany. Think of all that it meant in that great city of London. I know of many business men whose business passed out of existence completely in a moment. Every man in Kingsway and in Fleet street had his contracts cancelled. Then one of my friends, a man I knew well, coined the phrase, 'Business as usual,' for which he has since been much maligned, but he was not insane. He helped to restore people to their normal way of thinking.

"You will hear it sometimes said that Great Britain is taking no notice of the war. We have theatres running in London. We have been abused because of people going to them and taking no notice of the war. I wonder if you know who goes to them. It is the boys who are coming back from the front on leave (applause). We have two million men now in France (applause). Trainloads of them come over every week on leave or convalescent, snatching a few days with their families. Is it any wonder anyone who has not seen his wife for three months while he was absent in that hell hole in France should want a little relief and enjoyment when he gets back? It is not for the Londoner that we keep our theatres open. And it is only right that a man coming out of the trenches should have all the pleasure and recreation that he requires, no matter what some of the newspapers may say. (Applause.)

"Presently I am going to meet some of the Daughters of the Empire. I want to talk to them about something of what the women are doing in England, and they are doing a great deal (applause), driving delivery vans, acting as tram conductors, selling tickets on the railways, acting as collectors at the railway stations and taking baggage out of the trains. They will take your bag from you if you are travelling and they will even take a tip (laughter), and if you are half a man you will give one (applause), and a double one at that. Most of our banks are filled with women clerks.

"But there are many other conditions apart from anything you know here. We have no lights in our streets and our windows; all our lamps are darkened. You can only

see a glimmer when you come to a street corner and the curbstone is whitened so that you need not fall over it. The 'Islands' in the centres of the broad street, instead of being brightly lit, have only little scavenging lights so that one may know when one comes to them. If you show a light you will have a visit from a policeman and you must never forget to darken your windows. The Kaiser has been trying to scare us by sending Zeppelins and bombing hayricks, killing blackbirds and some women and children. The Zeppelins gave us thousands of men for our army.

"If you keep on hitting a Britisher long enough, in the end he will get mad. I like to think that the Kaiser has utterly failed in his purpose of scaring us but that he has succeeded in a purpose he did not mean—he has wakened us up and I do not think anything that happened since the war began stirred us more than the vile murder of Capt. Fryatt. Capt. Fryatt for fifteen or eighteen months had been going back and forth across the North Sea in danger from the submarines, carrying his own life and the lives of his passengers in his hands. He had gone through mines and treacherous waters, and through the snares that had been laid for him and, forsooth, because he tried to ram a submarine they accused him of Heaven knows what and assassinated him. All men who can do such a thing as that have to have the power for mischief taken out of their hands (applause).

"I want to tell you very little more about London, although it is much on my mind. I have been away from it, from my wife and daughter about twelve months, so naturally I would like to return. In England they always do crazy things (laughter). They concluded when my visit to Canada was in contemplation that the right man to send to the Dominion to ask the people of Canada to help to raise a tobacco fund was a man who did not smoke—a man who hated tobacco (laughter). But I am not going to talk about smoking alone. The Club I represent has a very big creed—a creed, when you hear it, will, I think, seem to you to

have something of what your own Canadian Club has. Believing that the British Empire stands for justice, freedom, order and good government, we pledge ourselves as citizens of the greatest Empire in the world to maintain the heritage handed down to us by our fathers! I think you may know that we have 142,000 members, a great majority in the Dominions overseas.

“We have felt in our club that the war gave us a real work to do, that we, the Overseas Club, ought to be taking care of the boys from overseas. The first thing we did was to declare our clubhouse open to everyone in uniform who came from overseas. (Applause.) But that was only a little thing; but it made the fellows feel that there was somebody looking after them. You can hardly imagine how the arrival of the Overseas men touched the people of the Old Country. They wanted to do everything to help the boys who had come 3000, 6000 and 12,000 miles to help to uphold the flag of the Empire and to fight for justice and freedom under the flag of which we are so proud, and in which we glory so much (applause).

“Some one in the Old Country started the idea of raising a fund to provide books and reading for the soldiers, collecting books, members and so on. We soon stopped that, however, because the government issued an order through the General Postoffice that anyone with a book or magazine had only to bring it into any postoffice and lay it on the counter and it would be immediately sent on to London. Tons and tons of them were so sent every day. We set apart a large part of the General Post Office for the purpose of distributing these magazines to the boys in the fleet, in the camps and in the Y. M. C. A. huts. The value of books to the boys at the front can scarcely be overestimated. Then we started something going in the direction of helping the Red Cross. Where that organization has no direct representatives, we have got our members to raise supplementary funds, and we have secured a considerable sum for their organizations. Then we have provided beds

in the hospitals, and we want to get at least a thousand of them.

“One of our other enterprises was that of supplementing our air-fleet. Our air-fleet was not over-strong when the war broke out. Already we have raised over \$570,000 and have presented 75 war aeroplanes to the Royal Flying Corps. (Applause.) The smaller machines cost \$7,500 and the larger \$11,250. The city of Montreal has subscribed for four of the large machines; forty-five came from Ontario; two from Nova Scotia, and six from Newfoundland (applause). The other Dominions Overseas and the great colonies from Hongkong to Ceylon and elsewhere have also contributed. All parts of the earth, indeed, have contributed. We felt that in giving these machines we have done some service, some useful service, in helping to supplement the governmental equipment in the war (applause).

“We have raised \$800,000 for tobacco for the troops. Quite recently we have been given official recognition by the British War office in return for the work we have done. We have been authorized to make use of the words ‘Approved by the War Office,’ and this in itself is a tribute to the work we have accomplished (applause). It puts our efforts above all suspicion. There is in the minds of some people that the Overseas Club is in the tobacco trade. I have even been accused of travelling for the American Tobacco Company. When I was asked about this matter of helping this fund or raising this money in Canada I wondered how I could do so consistently when I myself am not a smoker, and have even made it a practice to quarrel with a man who is smoking in a non-smoking compartment and tell him to go to the place provided for him (laughter.) But on the subject of this trip I did not have to wait long to convince myself eighty-five per cent. of the men who came back are smokers, and I do not think fifteen per cent. of those who will come back again will be non-smokers.

“Sir Frederick Treves placed such a high value on tobacco that it led the British government to include it in the

soldiers' rations. Well, you may ask what is the need of the soldiers' tobacco fund therefore? Now, I am not going to ask you for a cent, but this is what you should know—that the government makes the boys an allowance of two ounces a week, and some of you who smoke know how far that will go when you are in the open air. Well, what must it be when you are in the trenches and amongst all the terrible conditions there? You read in the newspapers about an intermittent bombardment and the 'curtain of fire' and other phrases, which tell you nothing at all. I wonder if anyone of you has read that book of Ian Hay's 'The First Hundred Thousand,' for it brings these things home in burning colors. You can see the trenches; you can see the fellow there fighting whole days and fighting whole nights, shells screeching overhead with a noise that deafens men, and even drives them stark mad. Sanitary conditions which you cannot describe prevail—poor, battered, broken bodies, bodies lying out exposed to the sun and flies. It is the greatest comfort you can give a man in that position to allow him to smoke. The man who is in khaki needs tobacco. I have one motive in coming here today, and that is to ask the gentlemen in this room to cut down their own smoking supplies about half, and until everyone who is going to the front is supplied abundantly (hear, hear). One officer who returned from the front said that there was no need for tobacco to be sent as there were tons of it lying behind the lines. But few people will believe that who knows what tons of tobacco are like where there are two million soldiers.

“Our organization has sent to the front 156,000,000 cigarettes and three hundred and fifty tons of tobacco. I would rather for my part send a few tons too much than have a man tell me that he had to go without any (applause); that he had received nothing from the government nor from the Overseas Club, as in one case I remember, for nine weeks.

“When we first started we naturally made lots of

mistakes. We thought that tobacco made in the Old Country would be good enough, but the Canadian and other overseas troops wanted that to which they had been accustomed. So we purchased Canadian manufactured tobacco, and had it made up in packets of fifty cigarettes. If you yourselves buy the tobacco in packages you will pay, including postage, almost a dollar, but if we buy it for you we shall see that the same kind that you want is sent to the boy at the front as is sold here in Canada, and your dollar, instead of sending one package, will send four packages for you (applause).

“I am not asking for money, but I would ask for eight or ten gentlemen to form a committee to work the city of Vancouver thoroughly, so that there will be no man who smokes who does not contribute his quota. And the man who does not smoke at all, of course will be able to contribute all the more (laughter.) I am going to get the Daughters of the Empire to co-operate with me if I can in this work. Despite all it has done the club has only sent six packets per man during a year and a half. I think, therefore, you will respond and give us your help. There is no time like the present.”

**HON. MARTIN BURRELL,
Federal Minister of Agriculture**

— ON —

“Agriculture and the War.”

(September 22nd, 1916)

Hon. Martin Burrell was the guest of the Vancouver Canadian Club on Friday, September 22, when he spoke on “Agriculture and the War.” Mr. F. W. Peters, the president of the club, occupied the chair, and amongst the guests was Mr. Holt, president of the Montreal Canadian Club.

Hon. Mr. Burrell said in part: “Of course the war has made a profound difference to this country as it has made to all countries participating in this colossal conflict, and even very material differences, too, to all those nations who have not joined in the issue now being decided. The changes have been so tremendous that life is not the same for any of us in this country, both in its economical, industrial and even in its social aspects. I remember, to illustrate my meaning in this regard, reading some years ago a book written by Zola in which a very vivid picture is given of the three days that preceded the war of 1870. I recall it now because it had an illustration which I want to bring before you in connection with the subject of agriculture, and bring it before you not only as a minister but as one who believes it is a subject of immense importance to this country and its welfare. It was a picture of those three days, and one particular passage I am referring to pictured a soldier lying on his chest with his rifle in his hands fatigued, almost parched with heat and the agony of the war, and almost deafened with the firing of the mitrailleuses, and he saw on the distant hills not very far from the actual battleline an old peasant with a white horse going up and down the field ploughing his furrows quite unheeding the shriek of the shells that were passing overhead, or the decisive battle that was being fought out be-

tween two great countries all about him. It seemed to me that in reading this at the time, and ever since, to have been an extraordinary representation of a great symbolical truth, namely, that in spite of the glory and the triumph of war, in spite of all its horrors and atrocities, and in spite of its cruelties and terrorism, and of the flood of tears and the agony that people, both men and women, undergo because of it—in spite of all these things that must go on, war cannot be with us always, and whether in war or out of war there must go on that ceaseless, patient, honest toil upon which rests the foundation of the whole world's security and progress. Well, if such a thing were true in such a war as that of 1870, it is infinitely more true today, and if I am to be allowed to speak of things in connection with our own war I will try briefly to cover one or two of the points. They are points in which we ought all to take an interest. Whatever importance was attached to this matter before the war, and there was even then a good deal of importance attached to it, we believe that no nation, and especially no nation such as this, can be permanently prosperous in her cities, even in a city such as this, to a great extent removed from dependence on agriculture—removed perhaps farther than anyone in Canada because of your mines and forests—unless it takes advantage of the benefits of agricultural development. The future of every city may be made or broken, and every community in Canada may be made or marred by the making or marring of agriculture throughout the country. That was our primary duty before the war; if anything the war has but served to emphasize it. No one who has not occasion to go into these things can know the extreme importance of the part played by agriculture in connection with this war. In spite of all the battles and the fighting, in spite of all the agony and the glory of the war, all these things would be impossible without the commissariat system and the enormous supplies and the quantities of food that are needed for the men, and which must be forthcoming without diminu-

tion or let-up; because, if there were, there could be no war at all. (Applause). For this reason the organization of our agricultural resources has been almost as vital as the organizing of our other resources and forces. I do not know that I will tell you what I was about to say, because we have not been making these matters public, so I shall not tell you in any detail the enormous amount of the work that has fallen upon us—upon this country in connection with supplying the British War office with what it required, such as oats, hay, flour and other things for the troops in various parts of the world—largely in France and Salonica. The British War office asked us about two years ago to take over the whole business, and to develop and extend it. While it is not desirable to make the figures known—it would make an interesting subject after the war—I may mention that we have had to do with thousands of thousands of tons, and millions and millions of bushels, and hundreds of shiploads that have been sent over the Atlantic without losing one—or I think we have lost just one shipment throughout the whole war (applause). They were guarded by that navy which is rightly the wonder and admiration of all mankind, and which keeps the lanes, the ocean lanes, that lead us to our Allies as safe as they would be in peace time.

“This war has made not only an enormous market for the farmers of Canada, but has been of direct financial benefit to the country; for the British War office is buying all these things and thus is strengthening the whole position of the Empire. We have not to trade to an unlimited extent at all events outside the dominions, but can procure thousands of necessities from within our own empire and our own great Dominions. (Applause.)

“I have been a close student of affairs on this continent for the last thirty or forty years, and I confess to some anxiety as to whether the people of this continent in the flush of material success, and their enormous material development and prosperity which has been sweeping over

this country; whether there was not a danger of a situation which had gradually made material success the criterion of almost all other success in life on this continent. And some of us used to wonder if the real test came whether a sensible proportion of the Canadian people as well as of the immigrants into the country would fail to respond, or whether they would rise in the best, truest, and deepest sense to their responsibilities—to responsibilities that had nothing to do with money or material success. I say this particularly, because our whole industrial success in Canada was a success that had no hindrance from the start, and some of it at all events was based on false premises. We failed to recognize the fundamental and permanent factors of success in any nation's history, and we were being carried away to some extent to discount the future heavily. We gave way to a riotous optimism, especially if we could impose it on the other chap who had something that we wanted.

“I am not a pessimist, but in the permanent success of any country you have to get down to bedrock, you have to pay attention to certain fundamental factors and stick by them. One cardinal thing is that whatever a man gets he shall give value for it. If we do not do that the whole foundation is rotten in any way you take it. In this country, all over it in recent years, there has been a too-great anxiety to receive something without giving proper value for it. The war has done something for this country in clearing away a lot of that unhealthy condition. We now see the realities of life and death. We have a clear vision of what is false and what is true all along the line. Now, so far as anything in our national life is concerned, if anyone has had a doubt about the responsibilities of this nation, that doubt no longer exists (applause). It existed no more after the first few days of the war. It is an unspeakable source of pride to every Canadian to realize that in the first days of the war, if he had had qualms, especially about

the responsibilities of the country and how they would be met, to see from the forest, mine, forum and counting-house everywhere men trooped to join the colors, giving up their employment, their spade and plough, abandoning their family connections and happiness simply for the sake of an ideal. As long as there are people who will do that you have a nation that is sound at heart. (Loud applause) There is no question about it; it is one of the outstanding and amazing things in the world; because after all it is not the same in England, whose very existence was threatened and who is right on the battle-line; but it is an amazing thing, and an outstanding thing, that a little country of seven and a half millions of people here and smaller still in Australia, separated by thousands of miles of sea, remote practically to such an extent that one country does not know what the other is doing or thinking—in spite of all that these people felt the Call of Blood, the sanctity of the institutions which they were called upon to defend, and decided to battle for their lives and happiness and the lives and happiness of their children. While the battle was fought not here we realized that it was just as essential to fight it there, and we made it clear that we were determined to fight to the last drop of our blood and our last dollar (applause). The losses, the price we have had to pay, are now coming home to the people of England, of Australia, and of the Dominion of Canada. You will realize this better when I tell you that there are six hundred girls employed checking up the casualties of Canada and distributing to the relatives the first official notices that are given out before the intimation appears in the press; they are also keeping track of the transfers in hospitals, and other facts that are necessary as well as the condition of the wounded. There are six hundred people attending to that work alone, so you can get from that fact some idea of the extent of the losses that Canada has had to meet. You may, perhaps, be able to realize from that also the grief and the terrific agony that this war has brought into millions

of homes throughout this Empire and throughout our Allied forces. And upon my word the question must come into our minds whether this frightful carnage is worth all that it is costing us. Then, again, when a man thinks of the meaning of it all and realizes what is at stake in it, it is a matter of great pride that the people that spoke most strongly, and stood most unfalteringly against the wrong, are the people where death has entered into their homes.

“It is no wonder to me when you realize the losses and the number of homes that death has entered into, you feel that it is robbed of its terrors by the magnificent self-sacrifice these men have made for a great cause; and it is my experience that it is from the people who have suffered these bereavements that the answer has come ‘We will have no peace until this thing is settled for ever.’ (Applause).

“But I must speak to you of agriculture. We have not in Canada as a whole, I may say, paid enough attention to it. In speaking about the cost of the war you must recollect that in the South African war we sent only ten thousand men, for whom the British government paid all the expenses and supplies, even to the hay. But now we are engaged in a war in which we have enlisted 360,000 men, practically five times as many as the whole force that Wellington had under him at Waterloo. We sent them 300 miles across the ocean and put them in line with the trained armies of Europe. At the same time we have kept up a splendid commissariat system, paying for everything from the start to the finish. We have accomplished that task with the whole-hearted assent and endorsement of the people of Canada. The further west you go the more whole-hearted it is. And when you get to the extreme west they are certainly whole-hoggers in what they undertake (applause). But you cannot carry on an enormous war such as this without it costing you a great deal of money. And our share in this war is costing us a million dollars a day. A sum like that, if it had been proposed to be spent a few years ago, would have staggered everyone of us, and every-

one would have wanted to know where we could have begged, borrowed or stolen it. (Laughter.) Our national debt when we have finished this war, if it does not last a great deal longer than most people imagine, will be about a thousand million dollars. Now that is a huge sum, and you must face the situation caused by it, and see that this country remains on a solvent, steady basis as far as financial matters are concerned. At the same time I have sufficient hope for the future of this country that it will be so great that we shall be able to discharge our obligations and maintain our credit (applause). It is a big task and never in the history of Canada has there been a moment when the men of the country have been confronted with such a tremendous task. And in this connection I must mention what has been done in these matters by Sir Thomas White, the Minister of Finance in the present government. I would like to say here, as one who has been in contact with him and knows his work, that I do not know anyone who brought to it greater devotion. And financial men in England who know all these things know that it is so. (Applause.) They have said that it is almost impossible for anyone to have done it with more signal success. If we have incurred all these tremendous obligations and will continue to incur them, there are certain ways of meeting them. We could meet them as we met other obligations in the past. The stream of English money, however, was cut off when war was declared. You were dependent on that stream for your development work in this province, and looked to it to discharge the obligations you had incurred until that development work became productive. Well we in the Federal government were in the same position. The eastern provincial governments too were also affected by their inability to borrow from England, for the supply of money was absolutely stopped; so that while there were things we and they might have done such as resorting to the printing press, a remarkably easy and delightful way of making money (laughter), you have only to print more notes by

that method and in some mysterious way you would have money enough to carry things along and it would be a very simple and easy way out. But I do not need to have to tell a shrewd lot of business men like you that to depreciate or inflate the currency to a point that would make it shaky would be disastrous. The first effect would have been felt certainly in the west. It would immediately place the New York Stock Exchange against us. Then there would be depression of all your securities and for a dollar's worth of goods you would only get seventy cents. In other ways it would check the flow of capital, and you would find all business extremely unprofitable. Sir Thomas White's chief duty I need hardly tell you was to maintain the credit of the country. And he has done that (applause). Although cut off from the greatest lending nation in the world he has handled the system of finance of the country in such a way that when he issued his first loan it was taken up by New York financiers on a basis very satisfactory to this country and more so than the Anglo-French loan was to England and France. The credit of the country therefore has been maintained and the currency has not been inflated. This is not only good for us federally, but every municipality that has to go to New York for most of its necessary borrowings now has found it to its benefit. If you had not had that state of things as I describe all your municipal borrowings and other borrowings would have gone by the board. The whole thing is so tied up together that it was the part of wisdom to see that that ought to be done. (Applause).

“The next thing was to curtail expenditures, and this work brought some hardship on many people and parts of the country. We are a democracy, gentlemen; we have all the faults and drawbacks of a democracy; and sometimes a minister sees those faults and drawbacks and limitations more than other people. But when the Federal government decided at the outbreak of the war they would not embark on any other public work or expenditures—although the decision was a matter of great hardship in many directions

and there was some soreness—I want to say that the response of the people to the spirit of the situation was made cheerfully and deserves the greatest admiration (applause). We recognized the situation and were willing to put up with it until better times come back again. As things stand today, if a man is getting three meals a day and has a roof over his head that is not shot-ridden or shell-ridden he is a great deal more lucky than millions of other people. Now, as I think I have probably spoken long enough, I do not want to go into the question of war taxation; but I want to point out that the payment of our domestic loans to other countries, and the payment of our national indebtedness has keep on paying people by borrowing from other people. You cannot pay a man by borrowing from another man the money that you need. That is how Germany is doing today. That is the theory of the Sandwich islanders who exist by the simple and ingenious means of taking in each other's washing. Germany is not feeling the pinch as yet because she is a self-contained country, and in fact she is getting more self-contained every day thank goodness (laughter), but they are trying to pay the other fellow with a promise, and when the other fellow will no longer take promises then they will go to pieces. Now the only way you can pay your obligations is to pay them, and the only way you can pay them is by increased production. Sir Thomas White has said that the greatest hope of Canada lies largely along her efficient agricultural production.

“I do not think people realize that we have done a great deal during the war. It is a marvellous thing to me that in spite of the strain on the men, in spite of the scores of thousands that have joined for the war, in spite of the dislocation of industries caused by the war and the altered conditions which we have had to meet, it is an extraordinary thing to me that the volume of trade has been the greatest in Canada's history or \$1,200,000,000. The favorable balance of trade was something like two hundred million dollars. When I tell you that fifty-three per cent. of our ex-

ports were agricultural exports you will see that none of us can lay too much stress on the vital relation of this question to our national development. Now it is by the sympathetic support and the sympathetic attention of the men in the cities of Canada that has made it possible for us to help agriculture to the extent we have done.

“We are spending today four millions of dollars where we were spending in 1911 \$1,200,000. During the war we have increased many of our activities. Sir Thomas White’s view has been that we must not curtail the expenditures on agriculture because that work has been altogether of a profitable kind. So we have continued our work and especially in connection with experimental farms. We are now spending a million dollars a year on them. People usually look on experimental farms as things that are not paying institutions and which should be wiped out. But these people forget that there is done at these farms a lot of special work by skilled men and if one experiment turns out satisfactorily out of hundreds that one experiment pays for the whole institution many times over. I could give you illustrations to prove this. Take the case of the Marquis wheat. By the production of the Marquis wheat the Northwest has made enough money—because they have been able to escape the frosts—to pay for the entire costs of the whole of the experimental farms in Canada five times over (applause). Another thing, we must strengthen our live stock industry. We believe in agriculture that makeshifts will not do; you must have the best thing you can get. Business men realize that and find that it pays best. And in life most of us have found that the best is usually the cheapest in the long run. So we believed that the live stock in this country did not receive the attention that it should have done, and especially with thousands of immigrants coming in all over the country we felt that the raising of bad cattle was an unsound thing. They cost as much as the better variety and did not give results within twentyfive per cent. of the other kinds. So we originated a policy of pure-bred sires

for associations who would maintain and keep them, so that farmers might get the use of them always within reach, and thus build up their flocks along sound lines. We have distributed three thousand sires.

“Speaking of the dairy work in this country, it is of immense importance, and especially to British Columbia. I do not think that the farmers of British Columbia are paying enough attention to the cattle industry. We find that at Agassiz, which is quite a good section for dairy work. So we have been developing a system of dairy records so that by means of them a farmer, out of say thirty cows, may know how many pay him and how many do not and also what it costs to feed them. We instituted a system whereby the milk was tested for butter fat and by this means a man could tell what cows were paying him and what cows were not. It worked something of a revolution, and if a man had had it before he could have brought his herd up to a much higher average and thus made more money out of them. The importance of this you will see from this, that in Ontario it would have meant eighty million dollars in one year (applause). We have brought the average yield in Ontario for a herd up to four thousand pounds from three thousand, but the average in Denmark is ten thousand. But you can understand the benefits that would come to the country if there was sufficient expert knowledge put into the hands of the people to help them to get the most productive returns. We are trying to do it; you may know the saying of Xenophon, who declared of agriculture that it was an art which, if it was not understood would make a man poor, but if was understood would make him rich.

“We were convinced about four years ago that the best way we could help the people of Canada was to put them in a position to help themselves. We wished to put at their disposal all the aid that could be furnished by the results of scientific research and discoveries during the last quarter of a century. There are thousands of men in Canada working midst hardship and discomfort at farming.

and finding it does not pay, simply because they have wasted and misdirected their efforts and energy. And there can be no truer help given in Canada than to help to correct this state of things, to enable a man a man to put his business on a better basis. We passed the Agricultural Instruction Act a few years ago in order to supply better equipment for agricultural education. Just before I left Ottawa I might mention I signed an agreement with this province for \$63,000 to supplement their own work along these lines.

“The Canadian people can never be quite the same again; they have faced the stormy realities of life and death and suffering and hardship. The men who have gone forth to fight for us will have a new view of things, a new conception of life and of life’s duties, and a different appreciation of what their country means, and what their country’s destiny should be.

“It would, indeed, be amazing if it were not so. And in that the part of women must not be overlooked. Nothing has been more noticeable than the extreme self-devotion of the women of Canada, the self-sacrificing of their time and energy to help in the prosecution of the war (applause). The new time that is to come will alter our whole attitude towards our problems, but it will give us courage and it will not rob us of our faith. We ought to have a more buoyant faith. Right here on this great seaboard facing the Far East, with its mysteries and problems, you are at the meeting of the worlds, so to speak. Facing the future in the proper spirit of hope and buoyancy nothing can rob us of our faith in the future. I am sure British Columbia will not be behind any province of Canada in appreciating the privileges of Canadian citizenship and ideals, and of living up to the best ideals we have set before us.” (Applause.)

The president introduced Mr. Holt, president of the Montreal Canadian Club, who was warmly welcomed.

THE MEMBERS OF THE DOMINIONS ROYAL COMMISSION

— ON —

“Trade With the Empire.”

(September 25th, 1916)

A luncheon in honor of the members of the Dominions Royal Commission on Trade within the Empire was given in the Hotel Vancouver on September 25, when Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce for the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Sinclair, representing New Zealand, and Sir Jan Langerman, of South Africa, delivered eloquent speeches on the war and cognate subjects.

Rev. Principal Vance presided over a crowded gathering which enthusiastically cheered the visitors and particularly the representative of South Africa. The President welcomed the guests who included Hon. W. J. Bowser, Premier of British Columbia, and Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Customs for the Dominion. After referring to Mr. Tatlow, Mr. Sinclair and other members of the Royal Commission, the president alluded to Australia's and New Zealand's contributions to the Imperial navy, expressing his personal regret that Canada had so far done nothing in that direction.

Mr. J. R. Sinclair, of New Zealand, the first speaker, said:

“I would like to take the opportunity of using the few minutes that are available just to offer in a word a thought upon the question that in some shape or other must have passed through the minds of everyone who is present today, namely, the existing systems that govern the relations between the Mother Country and the Dominions, the trading systems that govern our relations with Allied countries. Can they remain as they exist today? (No, no). There can be only one answer to that question. It is, ‘No, emphatically no.’ (Applause.) They must be materially altered.

“We know that in the past our Mother Country carried on her trading operations with enemy countries, in friendly rivalry, gave them every opportunity of trading with her, treated them just as she did our own people. Indeed for the purpose of trading all the Mother Country belonged to Germany as much as to us. The Dominions on their part preferred a domestic policy, giving more favorable tariff treatment to the members of the empire family than to outsiders. We know that in the Old Land were men who, for the time being, set on one side altogether the rival policies of protection and free trade, but who thought that the adoption of such an attitude towards the Dominions would bring about complications with Germany. Many people, indeed, believed that it would lead to war. That of course is a phase that belongs to the past. It is a question now—difficult, far-reaching perhaps—but questions as difficult in some directions have been solved by the war—and it is a question that will have to be faced, one which will have to be closely looked into; closely examined by the representatives of all parts of the Empire (applause), when they have further opportunities of doing it.

“We know in the past that there was a suggestion—an intolerable suggestion—that we dared not combine. Your dominion far back—if my memory serves me rightly, in 1897—led the way in giving a preferential treatment to the Mother Country. It was threatened by Germany with pains and penalties. Your part of the empire was to be penalized for its efforts to bring about closer union and to be penalized by a country that itself had adopted a protectionist policy with preferential trading for its own people with splendid results. It would seem—many think so to-day—many thought so when they saw it years and years ago—that our beloved Mother Country by her magnanimity, by her love for peace, was very tender in dealing with views of outside countries upon questions that really concerned our own domestic policy. In spite of all this, in spite of the Mother Country’s policy of the open door, we have had

forced upon us a war insidiously prepared for, a war carried on with atrocities that we assuredly did not look for in this twentieth century of civilization, a war for which our Mother Country's utter unpreparedness was the clearest evidence that there was no thought of war on her part. But that war, side by side with our Allies, we shall fight to a successful finish (applause).

“All parts of our empire must set themselves in combination to work out systems that will help us to put forth our utmost trading powers, systems that will fit in with those of our Allies who, like ourselves, have banded together to fight for the maintenance of solemn treaties, for the rights of peoples, for the war that is raging today is a fight of militarism against democracy. Every democratic country has terrible issues at stake. Our people, the people of our land, are fighting for their own, fighting against the hateful claim that might is right; that the strong may oppress the weak—to overthrow which has been the purpose of the legislation of every civilized community for centuries past. We cannot see the hands of the clock set back at this time of day. The weak have rights as well as the strong—that is the very essence of democracy; it is a watchword for which it is well to fight. Governments and their leaders in all parts of the empire are taking counsel with each other and with their allies trying to work out systems that will allow our people to give first call to their own; that will set up within the empire's boundaries, or within the allied countries, those industries for which we have allowed ourselves to become dependent on enemy countries. One of the things we have to do it to re-establish our economic and industrial independence. Well, sir, we may, I am sure, rely with confidence on the Parliaments and governments throughout the empire by legislation, by treaty or by other suitable means to do all they can to help us to develop, to strengthen, and to consolidate the trading resources of our empire.”

Sir George Foster, who followed, said in part: “In the first place this is what strikes me, that underneath the

great war that is being carried on Canada-wide, Empire-wide, allied countries-wide, European-wide, world-wide, there are a multitude of forces at work which we are not thinking much about at the present time; but which are yet operating powerfully on ourselves and on the countries first interested, and powerfully on the world at large. A new book of revelations will be opened when this war is over and we come to take stock of all that has resulted on account of that war. We shall then take stock of the individual heart and character of almost every citizen of our country. We shall take stock and pile up before us the results as regards our nationality as regards Canada itself. (Applause.) We shall take stock in still larger measure of what has happened to the empire at large. We shall take stock on a still wider range amongst all that circle of allied nations circling the globe—a wonderful part of the humanity of today taking in more than one-half—or rather more than one-half of its population. We shall take stock as to what shall result from it in that wide area; what it means to the world and how it will be affected by these two and a half years, may be three years, may be three and a half years, of the greatest contest of human forces history has seen. Take your own lives, your characters, your tendencies; and he is a pretty superficial man or woman who does not sense within the region of his own life and the scope of his own activities, that things are different in him and about him to what they were before. We are consciously or unconsciously reorganizing our tendencies, our thoughts of life, our aims, our valuations and our ideals. We are being acted upon by forces within, and we are being acted upon by forces from without, and we, as citizens of this country and of this empire, will be powerfully influenced by the events of the next two, three or four years. (Applause.)

“Coming to the wider sphere of the Dominion of Canada, who does not already see different forces in action, different tendencies coming to the front, different ideals,

different forecasts of the future of Canada from what has ever been the case before? Take the small matter—and yet the vast matter—of bringing together the manhood and womanhood of the country within its widely extended boundaries, to unite on a common platform of sacrifice to the extent of putting their lives and the lives of their loved ones to the test for their national ideals, their national civilization and their national hopes. They have come closer together than ever they could have come on the colder and more selfish lines of business, or even warmer lines of social intercourse. The man from British Columbia and the man from Cape Breton, the man from the province of Alberta and the man from Prince Edward Island are armed with the same faith, the same splendid heroism, armed with the same love of their common ideals, putting everything to the test and marching to the front and fighting and dying there in their devotion to this cause which they value to a greater extent than they value life itself. By so doing they are making of this Dominion of Canada a more united, more consistent and more uniform civilization and people than ever before (applause). We shall emerge from these days with many pains in our hearts, with many marks of sorrow upon us, with many of the dire scars of war, but we will emerge from it as a nationality purified, solidified, magnified and made infinitely better than we ever were before (applause). And we shall proceed along these great lines which mark so closely our progress and civilization.

“The Waiser and his circle were depending on the forces of disintegration, on the centrifugal forces in this empire, for their contemplated easy victory. They have been absolutely surprised and absolutely confounded in their anticipations. To them this empire was but a congeries of illogical, ill-assorted and disunited elements, which, when the first crack of the mailed fist of the emperor fell upon them, and war had loosed its legions, would fall like a house of cards. The mailed fist was raised, the sword of war was

loosed, the legions delivered their blows; but instead of this assembly of ill-assorted, ill-connected and illogical units falling apart like a house of cards, every blow that the kaiser and his forces have directed until this day has been but more firmly to set the rivets and strengthen the bonds that hold this great empire in its distributed parts together, and has made of it a community united beyond the expectations or the dreams of former years. Going further than that men with similar ideas of liberty and justice, and of great ideals, men having such ideals based on their political systems—these things that were spoken of by my friend from New Zealand—men realize that they must protect democracy, must see that the community is not deprived of its proper rights, and that democracy is secure with recognition of its force in the world. These are the ideals that have been controverted by the Huns. They have emerged out of barbarism, out of the countless needs and actions of diverse populations and by their common hold on such ideals as these all the Allied nations today—of which we form one—are making an extended and broadened community with similar ideals, with similar hopes, with similar optimism for future enlargement, for the world's benefit and for the overthrow of all such ideals as the Germans and the Tentons generally hold.

“Today we have in the world a family not of one, but of seven nationalities and may be more. We are united in common support of these great principles and ideals, principles which shall be worked out for the benefit of the world. Is not that an action which we can offset against the horrors and sacrifices of war? How much the kaiser hoped for coming victory from the disintegration of the Allies may never be known; but there has never been in the history of the world a propaganda so ingeniously constructed, so tirelessly carried out, so extensively put on the stage, with wider ramifications in villages and cities and parts of the world to bring about dissension and disintegration amongst the Allies than has been put on by the Germanic powers in

the United States. We have seen it in every country in the world; we have felt its deleterious power, and they based their hopes for success on that. How these hopes have fallen to pieces? How wrecked and useless do they appear now? For every month of the war, every stab of the bayonet, every flutter of the German flag, every stroke of the mailed fist has succeeded in driving closer together the Allied powers rather than rending them apart or making them a set of units disintegrated from each other and powerless because of their disintegration (applause).

“It is a testimony to the uniting power of a common purpose and of a common ideal, thus shown in the common conduct in this war and in the difficulties owing to wide-ness of territory, to different casts of character, to all those things that divide the nations from each other, that today the testimony is unquestioned and the facts are apparent that all the Allies from the Caucasus to Flanders, those widely distributed and separated allied countries, have so far gotten together in mobilization, organization and co-operation that in all these long widely-distributed lands, the millions of soldiers and the commanders who direct them understand each other, know what each other wishes to have done, and work as cogs in the great machinery of war with one purpose and one direction. They are delivering their blows today against the enemy (applause).

“We are absolutely on square open ground in our own empire with all its units from far-distant Australia, from South Africa, from Newfoundland, from Canada, from New Zealand, from every dependancy of the empire. No British sword is drawn, no British cannon speaks, no British soldier goes to the front and fights with the idea that he is going to get any territory or power by his fighting. (Applause.) That is one outstanding thing, to the enduring glory and honor of the British Empire. Such a thing was never seen before. In London, the heart of the empire, no one is dreaming for a single moment that they will get territory or get greater power through this war. It is a war which, for the British

empire, is conceived in and carried on on the plain simple plan of justice and right (applause); it is a war against the might of a nation which would restrict the rights of individuals and the rights of weaker communities. In all history to come that will stand blazoned on its pages, that so far as the British empire is concerned it was a fight unsullied by selfish desire for the property or the territory of any other power in the world (applause).

“It was the proudest moment I have known when I spoke in the Economic Conference in Paris as the representative of the British Government in that unique assembly (applause). Many and many a man from Canada and some other parts of the Overseas Dominions would have sat there and done his duty and the work that was to be done just as well as myself, but I never felt that I would rather the honor had gone to some other country than my own. I will be very frank about that, and you may form your own opinion about it. Of all the indications that have been placed one on top of the other, accumulative in their evidence and in their way of the coming together of this great empire on lines closer in union, more compact in reference to policy, and more co-ordinated with reference to the final factors, there has been none which to my mind has indicated the train of things any better than the appointment by the British government of two members of the Overseas Dominions as representatives for them at that economic conference. (Applause).

“That conference marked an epoch and set the beginning date to a series of tendencies, the results of which are incalculable, and the results of which will take generations to work out. It affirmed the principle that at that economic conference it was possible for those eight nations to get together with unity and oneness of purpose. It affirmed the ground which is absolutely true, I believe, though not so well understood by us before the war, that war and economics have everything in common, and that they are not strangers to each other so far as the final effects are con-

cerned. War as understood by the British Empire is not a war for aggression; it is a war for defence, and is never to be undertaken except for that purpose. War is a temporary event even when undertaken for the sake of defence, but economic principles carried out from the lowest grade of society to the highest are the work of peace which are enduring and not temporary and tend to the protection and strengthening of the empire as war never does. Hereafter, whatever may be the case with other nations, the British empire will direct its eyes towards its own infinite resources (applause), these undeveloped resources, towards its own wealth of capital and towards its inter-dependence on its different parts, and the possibility, the bright and brilliant possibility, that can be built up by proper development, by proper co-operation, to make an absolute self-dependent empire (applause).

“The economic principles that we subscribed to at that conference as the war proceeds will develop in importance, and as peace comes they will show their value, their tremendous value, on a still wider scale. Tendencies have been set in motion; self-help and mutual co-operation have been combined; and the future alone can unfold to us what will be the majestic and wonderful results of the principles which we formed and which will be set in operation by more than one-half of the world’s population at the conclusion of this war.”

Sir Jan Langerman, of South Africa, said: “There are many subjects one could speak about—academic and other subjects; but I think you would like me to speak on the state of affairs in South Africa (applause). I think that the lesson which South Africa teaches to the rest of the Dominions—more especially to the English portions of the empire—can be taken to heart by a good many who in the Mother Country are still slackers today. I had to pass through England, and I found swarms of young men running about without having joined the colors. They have conscription, but it is not the sort of conscription there is in South Af-

rica. There every man from sixteen to sixty can be called upon for military service. But in the Mother Country it is a modified conscription. You will find thousands of applicants for exemption and thousands of conscientious objectors—and that is a deplorable state of things in the heart of the empire close to the scene of war and daily threatened by German invasion. South Africa can point a moral and teach a lesson. What I would tell you today is the attitude of South Africa towards the war. As you know South Africa is practically a Dutch community. As you know, in the last thirty years we have had two wars with Great Britain in South Africa. In fact South Africa is a poor country. She has been retarded in the past through innumerable wars: wars indeed make up her history for the last 150 years. South Africa has not had a clear run without a war of some kind or other, a war of natives against natives or of natives against white men, or of white men against white men. If you look on South Africa today as a poor country you will see why it is backward. As regards the attitude of South Africa on September 8th, after the war was declared, Botha (applause), then and still Prime Minister, called both houses of the legislature together. You must understand that our legislature consists of 75 per cent. of Dutch-speaking members and of 25 per cent. of English-speaking. He brought the whole matter of the war before the two houses sitting together, and it was carried by a majority of 95 per cent, to interfere in the war and to assist the Mother Country (applause). The minority voting against the proposal was ten out of 130 members and it consisted of eight Dutch members and two English-speaking, the latter being members of the labor party. Immediately General Botha, called from his farm, where he had fought the English in 1902, where he thought he would live in peace now in South Africa, donned his uniform again, but this time with the English and not against them. You must understand the unique position of Generals Botha and Smuts who fought against the English

in 1902. But the large majority of the Dutch people were then for fighting against the English, or at any rate sympathizing with the two republics fighting for their existence. So in our houses of Parliament 105 members, consisting largely of Dutch members, those who in some cases themselves had fought against the English and sympathized with the two republics, they on that 8th of September wholeheartedly and voluntarily voted to fight for the British government (applause).

“Why should the Dutch people do that? Why should they who had been in arms against the British be with them? All I can tell you is that fortunately for South Africa we had two German colonies upon our borders. A lot of our people had settled in German territory and every month we got letters from them, telling us of the hardships they had to undergo from the Germans. they were forced to abandon their language, and forced to learn German, and were looked upon by the German officials there as the equivalent of the natives of the country and treated like Kaffirs. That aroused the ire of the Dutch people in the Union of South Africa. They realized that it was a great menace to have German colonies on their borders, and they knew that if the war went against the British they would invade South Africa and make it German. For that reason, in self-defence they said whatever our grievances may have been in South Africa against the English, we prefer British rule. We have liberty in church and conscience; we can keep our language and we get fair-play all round (applause).

“Immediately after that Parliament authorized the German West expedition. General Botha commandeered all those who were needed. He had to commandeer 40,000 men in order to go to German West. He selected 30,000 Dutchmen and auxiliary regiments of English-speaking men, ten thousand of them. There was not a single one claiming exemption, and there were no conscientious objectors amongst them. He took personal command and went

to German West Africa. We had in those troops there the material fortunately or unfortunately for our past history—the men who are all fighters and very good fighters, too (hear, hear).

“Well we had the human material, and in six weeks Gen. Botha had equipped his army and marched into German West Africa. That is not a country where an army of forty thousand men can live on the country. It is a vast desert 200 or 300 miles from the coast—not a desert covered with scrub, but absolutely pure sand, not a blade of grass. On it these men had to march on horseback or foot. The ten thousand English section were left to guard communications and protect the railways that fell into his hands. He marched through German West Africa and eventually he cleared it with his own people. You must understand the difficulty we had to contend with there. While this was going on the rebellion broke out, and General Botha had to contend with that, too. The rebellion was a heart-breaking thing to him—that he should have to go out to defend the British flag in South Africa against his own countrymen and friends he had known for life. But he did his duty. He remembered and kept his oath at the treaty of Vereeniging and said ‘Whatever private feelings I may have, and although my own countrymen are at stake, I shall shoot them down. I shall keep my oath to the British government and see this thing through.’ He declined to call out a single British born subject. He said the matter was between the Dutch people in South Africa, and he would take only his own people to settle it. He called out ten thousand of his own supporters, and as you know in a very short time that rebellion was quelled.

“You must understand another great difficulty. Many uninformed people ask ‘What is South Africa doing in the war? Are they loyal? Why do we not see a hundred thousand men from Africa?’ Well, you have there one example of what we are doing (applause). In German East Africa Smith-Dorrien, the famous British general, took ill

at Capetown and the British government hit upon General Smuts. Although an Africander myself I must say that no better choice could have been made for that class of warfare. While General Botha is a farmer, Smuts is a scholar. He took the highest legal course at Cambridge, yet he set aside his practice and took to the field; and as you know now he has practically cleared German East Africa from Germans. He has taken their railways and they are now wandering about in the bush. There is an army of forty thousand men there, of whom thirty thousand are Dutchmen. I must tell you that that is no reflection on the Englishmen—that we did not take the whole army of English—but the Dutchman is a peculiar animal. He is fond of fighting and can live on anything at all, on what you call, I believe, the smell of an oil rag. He is always ready, sleeps where his horse stops, carried his biltong, what you call, I think, jerked meat, and requires nothing else. If there is a shot fired he is ready at once. Now, of course, it would have been very easy to have sent a lot of trained soldiers; but I doubt whether the same results would have been accomplished in the time as has been done. South Africa has the material in that respect that can do the rough fighting for the empire where it is required.

“You will agree with me I think that South Africa has done its bit in that respect (applause). They have added territory to the empire larger than Europe. That must count for something in the efforts that South Africa has made; you may remember also that we have got fifty thousand South Africans fighting on the front in Flanders. We are sending a thousand natives every month to France to do dock work to release the white men for service at the front. Then you must remember that we cannot deplete South Africa of its men entirely because we have a rebellious element amongst the Dutch who would be likely to kick up a row and give trouble as they did last year. We are only a community of 1,250,000 white people, men, women and children. Against that we have a native population of six

million people. It is easy for you to understand, therefore, that it is difficult and dangerous for us to deplete South Africa of its fighting men altogether; because some fire brand may stir up the natives against the white people. We have in Johannesburg 300,000 natives at the mines. They are away from their homes for twelve months at a time. Now, unless we have adequate police protection, which takes at least five thousand men to police the Rand, one never knows what may happen to the women and children. They may be murdered.

“The English people at home have now their chance of overcoming in war the barbarians who are seeking to dominate the world under the cloak of civilization and culture. Is it therefore not up to you who belong to the British race, with all the traditions of your forefathers behind you, you who have come to this country, this noble inheritance—is it not up to you to see that there should be no slackers, no call for volunteers ? You should go forward and defend the country from which you originally sprang. If you look at the thousands of Dutch in South Africa they are more nearly allied with the Germans, yet they have recognized what England has done in the past for civilization, and also what she is prepared to do in the future. Yet I am sorry to say that in England and in some of the Dominions there are still slackers of the British race.” (Applause.)

MR. W. G. CONLEY AND MR. HORACE BEAUCHAMP

— ON —

“The Necessity of an Imperial News Service.”

(October 20th, 1916)

The necessity of an Imperial News Service linking Great Britain, Canada and Australasia, and the importance of furthering trade between the Overseas Dominions were two themes dealt with at the luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club at the Hotel Vancouver on October 20, when the speakers were Mr. W. G. Conley, managing director of the Sydney Morning Herald, and Mr. Horace Beauchamp, chairman of the Bank of New Zealand.

Mr. F. W. Peters, president of the club, occupied the chair and introduced the speakers.

Mr. Conley said:

“You may afterwards discount what I say if you like on the ground that the shoemaker always says that there is nothing like leather, but I hope to leave in the backs of your heads the importance, the great importance, of a proper understanding between the Dominions of the empire and the Mother Country. That understanding can only be built up by getting a knowledge of each other and that knowledge can only be secured and disseminated by your newspapers.

“The real subject on which I am to speak to you is the dissemination of news, the formation of public opinion, and the making of nations acquainted with one another. But before I come to the news side of the question I should like to discuss for a moment the fallacy commonly held in British communities and no more commonly held than amongst

newspaper men—the fallacy that public opinion is formed by the editorial arguments of the leading columns. Now, I was a leader-writer myself when I was about 21 years of age, and I used to give the German Emperor good advice, and show the City Council how to run its business. Now the genius of newspapers editors is all right, but they can only go this far that they can give a general character to a paper by expounding reasonable views and editorial comments in their columns with justice and moderation and good sense over perhaps a long series of years. All that helps to give a paper such as a professional man would wish to possess for good manners and decent feeling towards his friends and towards his enemies. It is the same with a leading article or a series of leading articles; it gives a paper a standing in the community for earnestness, justice and righteousness. If people are concerned with policy in a newspaper they generally buy a paper that reflects their views, and if they are strong politicians they will not take a paper with which they do not agree. So that there is not much chance of making converts by the leading columns of a newspaper. It is like carrying the gospel to the elect. Public opinion is really made by facts. Apart from the fact that a man likes to think that he is forming his own opinions even when he is doing nothing of the kind, a right judgment can only be formed and built upon a foundation of fact, especially fact brought vividly before us. The sinking of the *Lusitania* for example did more to turn public opinion in a certain direction than all the leading articles written in New York up to that time. The fact horrified people, and it got extra force for this reason, that it was enabled by the way in which newspapers organize and circulate their news to hit every one at once and with greater effect than if it had been carried about the world as in the old days by wandering bards and tattered pilgrims who took months to bring their news from one country to another. Take the death of the Pope as it might have been made known three hundred years ago. It then took twelve months to get to some

parts of the earth; now the whole world receives it in its morning newspaper. The whole world is moved by it and the whole world sympathizes with it at once. I am trying to show you that the instantaneous dissemination of news has made the whole world smaller. It helps all missionary effort, I care not whether you are propagating the Christian religion or furthering the dictines of the single tax. The real thing that helps in these cases is the distribution of news. And it is necessary in order to get the fullest effect from this distribution of news it must be instantaneous—that is to say, the fullest effect in the formation of opinion. How much more necessary it is to bear in mind that in this distribution of news we only get to understand each other as we learn to know each other, as we make each other's acquaintance. Thus we find the real depths of character, the real qualities of our friends. We find that even our enemies have some good points. We find something in common in our points of view, a thing only attained by knowing each other well. Nations cannot meet together, so that the only way to make them think in common is to disseminate in their respective countries information about their trials, troubles, sorrows, achievements and the ideals they are aiming at. Without that no country can be known.

“We can only get respect for our ideals by respecting the ideals of others, and we must, therefore, know something about them, for there can be no understanding between Canada, Australia and New Zealand without knowing something of each other's achievements and work. We each benefit from the mistakes of others; we each learn from the achievements of others, and that can only be done by the dissemination of news. Now what kind of news will do us any good? I do not know whether the promiscuous amours of the idle rich advances Canada in the eyes of Australia. I do not know that there is anything particularly edifying about accounts of lynchings in Georgia. Of course we are apt to judge you by your newspapers and the kind of news we get about you. I do not know whether I dare to say

anything about the great national game without being blasphemous; but there are, I think, more important things than baseball. How do you get all this?? I will tell you. I am quoting now from a nameless newspaper man. The reports relating to international affairs are prepared in the first place for the American public and so are not acceptable to Canadian readers. That is the view you get of affairs relating to Canada. Realizing how this Americanization is taking place in the west I saw it in the crowds in your streets, and I have found that some way must be devised for altering this (applause). But that it will not be done without objection, I have here a message of some evidence given before the Dominions Royal Commission by Mr. J. Ross Robertson, of Toronto, where he said that an Imperial news service such as I advocate was practically impossible because of the great difficulty of securing a land wire and the cost. He says that the Canadian Press, Limited, was working most satisfactorily and no Imperial service could hope to compete with it or take its place.

“Now the paper with which I am connected has been offered again and again a certain class of advertisement, but we will not take them. A man who wanted to put in one such advertisement said to me once: ‘What, you can afford to chuck my business away?’ I said to him: ‘No, but we cannot afford to take it.’ (Applause). Now, gentlemen, you cannot afford to allow this opportunity to go by as is suggested by this gentleman; you cannot afford to subject yourself to intellectual annexation, and I am proposing a method to prevent it. This is what I say about this matter. Australia, with a desire to get her news unadulterated, to learn what the empire is doing, to remove from our people the disadvantages of isolation, formed an association to bring news from London to Australia. This Australian Press Association removed the previous wasteful expenditure and competition. It gave a service free from sensationalism—it was non-partisan, and we are getting a perfectly impartial service today. Australian newspapers

indeed carry probably the best foreign service enjoyed by any newspapers outside of Great Britain today. This cable service has given Australians a clearer view of Imperial events than anything else; has kept the leading British traditions and the best features of British life alive in Australia, so much so that Australia, it is often said, is today more British than the British (applause). That may not be so, but I should like to ask this: Are you more British than the British? In spite of the fact that in both Australia and New Zealand these countries have a strong sense of nationalism and of individuality, as is shown by the advanced legislation of both of them, there is the most marked attachment to the Mother Country and the commercial ties between Great Britain and Australia are closer than between the Old Country and any of her other children. That is a proud thing to say, but it is a fact. And as regards Canada, it can only be done by Canadian nationalism in regard to Canadian news. Take the case of Toronto; it is violently protectionist. They will not allow a dollar's worth of goods to come in; they will not allow other manufacturers to compete with the Canadian manufacturers. But they do not seem to care so much about protecting the nationalism and the patriotism of the Canadian laborer. That is the point I am getting at. It is no use saying that man lives by bread alone. If you are going to have an educated democracy you must give them the proper mental food and the mental attitude towards their country, and towards the empire (applause). You cannot afford it you say? Then my reply to that is this: Is that big red band on the map of North America all bunk (laughter and applause), or do I only imagine that it exists at all? I have been going to picture shows lately. One thing I saw there was called 'The Crimson Stain.' Have I become obsessed with it and do I see everything red? (Laughter). Are all those great lakes and rivers that I see on your map put in by the designing geographer intending to deceive me? Have you really got seven million people in this country? Do

you realize that you have sent 300,000 men to France, and supposing that I am not dreaming, is this country so poor that it cannot have something like a nationalism of its own? I think we have the laugh on you there. Now there are more rivers within a hundred miles of this city than in all Australia. Our lakes, you could lose them in this hotel (laughter). We are eleven thousand miles from the heart of the empire. You have three or four transcontinental railways. Is this country too poor to do what we have done? I do not believe it. I do not think that that man in Toronto was representing Canada (applause.) How is the press going to be respected if it does not represent you and help you to the intellectual food that you ought to get? Now this is sentiment. Coming to practical things, I think it was Mr. Ross who came to Australia, and negotiations took place with Sir George Foster about reciprocity. How can you get reciprocity unless you know each other and the things you each of you want? You want to know something about those things and about what you are likely to get in return. A bargain to be satisfactory must be beneficial to both parties. People on our side want the admission of news print, for example, and we are seeking to give something in return. It is a matter of bargaining. Would it not be easier if your people were acquainted with our people, with our industries and with what we can do for each other? Insistence on the fact that the seasons are opposite, that we can produce things that you want, and that you can send us things we want at certain times will save each of us money and add to the comforts of both of us. It cannot be done by politicians. There passed through this country not long ago a delegation from Australia and New Zealand, a decent lot of men and men we are proud of. They saw the country for a few days, but what could they do? They can do no more than their constituencies allow them, and their constituencies will not allow them to do more than they are educated up to. When our politicians are without editorial advice we get the politicians we

deserve. Are we doing anything to educate them? The only education that we in Australia have had for months past in respect of Canada was the fall of the Quebec bridge. (Laughter). Brother Nelson who is here—or should I say comrade Nelson?—is proprietor of a newspaper, and I saw in that newspaper the other day how the I. W. W. were misbehaving themselves and getting mixed up in treason. That is all you hear about Australia. You do not hear how our wool is being sold or how our wheat crop is going on, and yet the price of the very coat on your back may depend on the price of Australian wool. The same with other things, and we want to know what the fellows across the street are doing and how they are carrying on business. I want you to understand our ideals, our labor laws, our 'White Australia' policy, why we believe in old age pensions and such things.

“Then you might want to know how our government-owned ships are going to get on. All such things are going to have a vital interest, and more than that they are going to touch your pockets, and that will make you sit up and take notice apart from the state of your hearts (laughter). In New Zealand there is a big area of desolate country called King Country (laughter), famous for its Prohibition and its false prophet with forty wives, Rua, to take whom they sent out an armed party. They chased Rua for years and they got him at last. We want to know what Prohibition will do here? It is a serious step to take, and the experience of other countries is very important—and the only experience, too, you can get worth having is the news of how it is working out in other countries.

“I have tried to indicate to you how important it is to have this interchange of opinion going on; but now coming down to brass tacks my idea is that we should have a line of telegraph—say from Canso to Vancouver. I am urging the press of Canada to come in and co-operate with us in this in order to assure a news service of the best kind. We are now collecting in London one of the best news

services in the world, as anyone will tell you. You can take any newspaper in any of the four capitals of New Zealand—they have four there—I do not know which side of the island Mr Beauchamp comes from, so I must be careful—but you can take any paper there, and you will be told that New Zealand people are getting more news of importance there than any paper in North America. That accounts for the advanced state of our civilization. We are trying to get Canada to share in that organization which will give to you my unbiassed account of the achievements of the British people, the great movements in the capital of Europe, and the big news of the world distributed along that line. I speak of your ideal situation as the time is running in the right direction. Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg would be in instantaneous touch with London, and a quarter of an hour would bring news to our very doors. In these days, however, there is a fellow called a censor—perhaps you have heard of him, and so we sometimes do not get there in a quarter of an hour. With this Imperial News Service news coming through could be sent more quickly to New Zealand than it is now; instead of being relayed back from Sydney it could be cut off at Norfolk island, and then practically from London to Perth there would be one chain in regard to the news of the empire, each place being as close to each other as if they were within reach of the telephone in Vancouver (applause). Important as these things are it is more important than all of them that we should have all the empire news that we can get, but still more important is it that they should get our news. How is the empire to combine in one whole these various peoples with strong national ideas unless she knows all about them? Has the Englishman any chance of giving a right judgment on anything when he hardly knows we in Australia, for instance, speak English. Why, I have known it in England, where people seemed to be surprised to find that Australians were white instead of black (laughter). Now we want the Englishman to feel that he is in closer

sympathy with us. It is all very well for the Englishman to say 'Oh you don't want immigration in Australia.' We want him to know that we do want immigration. We want him to know what we are doing; we want him to know our ideals and to show him when we come to raise money that we are going to have better government, for better government costs money as you know. But we do not want the government to give the news to the press; we want to do that for ourselves, for we can do it better. The press represents the people and the more honestly it gives the news the better for both of them. In regard to this service my idea is that, say, Australia, having an item of interest for dissemination throughout the empire, should send it to Vancouver in five minutes or so, going then across Canada, through Calgary, Winnipeg, Montreal, Halifax, and so on to London. Then in London we would have a Dominion Information service, so that the London banker or merchant would have this news on his breakfast table every morning; all the news about, say, a fire in the city or his customers' credit, the price of certain products, and, in a word, all the information necessary for modern commerce. They would have also the news of Canada in the same way. And more important than that, the Canadian and Australian in London would get the news of his own city there. When you have gone round all the important places in London and seen all the historical monuments you begin to look for a little news of your own place in the newspapers. At present if a prominent citizen murdered someone in Vancouver you might hear about it, but you would get no news of the shipping or the markets and the events of greater real interest. We ought to remedy that and we shall never get our countries understood elsewhere unless we do. It is no use talking about it. Why have we not done it? But it is no use, either, apologizing for the past. We have now a particularly good opportunity to remedy this condition. We have Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders in France. They have now interests in common, in knowing

about what other white people are doing—the Australians are reasonably white, I think, I have shown—they can speak English, too—and this war has given them an interest in each other such as they had never before. When they come back again they will want to know what is happening in those other countries. They will want to learn all they can about them and there is, therefore, a great opportunity, an opportunity which, if properly used, would do wonders in opening up this empire, would do wonders in helping on that work of regeneration which will be so difficult and will be a call upon every one of us to do what we can. We shall need every bit of the patriotism that will remain after this war, and all the nationalism of our respective countries, so that stronger and better stones may be added to the edifice of empire so as to make that empire more than it has been a power for good, and a bulwark for peace, and, best of all, let us hope, a bulwark for humanity. (Applause.)

Mr. Harold Beauchamp, of the Bank of New Zealand, said:

“I have a very great admiration for the press service and the news that we get from all parts of the empire in our newspapers. For instance, the first page to which we turn at breakfast is the cable news. There we have items of intelligence from every part of the empire, with the result that on almost all questions we Australians are better posted than even the Englishman is in many matters. On one occasion I spoke in London on one or two matters and somebody said to me: ‘You are as well posted on affairs in Europe as we are.’ That we owe to our excellent cable service. We have a magnificent paper in that represented by Mr. Conley, the Sydney Morning Herald. It is read everywhere and moulds public opinion to a greater extent than Mr. Conley would suggest to you. For it is quite true that newspapers give people their opinions, and people express the opinions put before them by the editors. On one occasion I was in London. I was there for three or four months, but during all that time I saw only one item in the

papers relating to New Zealand—a rising of the natives in the Chatham islands is expected in consequence of the action of the government insisting on the collection of the dog tax (laughter). The Standard, I think, at one time printed some overseas news, but that paper is now come to an end—perhaps that news was too much for its readers (laughter). At any rate the newspapers have refused to print any more.

“I have been impressed by the possibilities of trade between Australia and this western side of Canada. I expressed myself to that effect in 1898 when I returned there from a visit to this side. We were doing a small trade, but now we have some fine ships, and when this lamentable war is over I understand that the Union Steamship company will put on more boats to develop this trade as much as possible (applause). We certainly think that if you in Canada can provide the goods we have heretofore imported from Germany we shall be glad to take them. So far as New Zealand is concerned I think we cannot be a large manufacturing country. The conditions of labor are against us, and we are distant from the markets. But we have great wealth in wool, in frozen meat, in kauri gum and other things that should find a market here. ‘We can promise to take manufactured goods from you; but a condition to the development of trade between the Overseas Dominions is a system of preferential trade within the empire (applause). On one occasion I had the pleasure of attending a conference of representatives of the Chambers of Commerce which sat in London. In common with a representative of Canada, a distinguished Canadian, I set this matter before the British public. I am sorry to say that they were quite cold, that we received very little encouragement. In discussing the matter subsequently with some Canadians they said that they were returning to Canada almost heart-broken. They had given a preference to the Mother Country, but free trade was still a fetish in the United Kingdom. There seemed to be no chance of altering that fiscal policy.

But it is very suggestive to notice that the Chambers of Commerce have changed their attitude, and men who were strongly in favor of free trade are now altering their opinions. Mr. Asquith, too, has recognized that owing to the rapid changes in conditions it may be necessary to alter our fiscal systems. They can alter them only by establishing a close partnership with the Overseas Dominions. We Australasians, like you, are rigid Imperialists. We speak more of Imperialism out there than you do, but the magnificent contribution you have made in this war shows your hearts to be in the right place. You are just as Imperialistic when the call comes as we are. I certainly think it would be most desirable for you to take this question up very warmly with the hope that you will be able to establish a cable service between Canada and Australia, bringing both more closely together. We have a common position on this great Pacific ocean, it unites these two countries together, and if, in the near future, we are to get a system of preferential trade this service of news will be of the greatest value.

“We must formulate some scheme for securing Germany’s trade after the war, but we must allow Germany to develop her own particular commerce. However, we must see that she does not get our trade as she did before the war.” (Applause.)

SIR HERBERT AMES, M.P.

— ON —

“Canadian Patriotic Fund.”

(October 30th, 1916.)

Sir Herbert Ames was the guest of honor at the Vancouver Canadian Club and the Women's American Club, October 30, at a luncheon held in the Hotel Vancouver. Mr. F. W. Peters, president of the club, occupied the chair.

Sir Herbert Ames said in part: “When the history of this war comes to be written, particularly if it is written by a European historian, there will be some things that will be incumbent to have answered. One of these will be why Canada ever went into this great war? The student of history, looking over the wars of previous centuries, finds many reasons why the conflicts were engaged. He finds that many wars took place in the hope of increasing territory. But we have no desire to increase our territory. A kind Providence has given us a wide and smiling country, and all we need are men and the means of developing it. Nations have gone to war to secure markets. We have no desire to secure markets by force; we are content to give and receive, and only on that basis do we ask advantage. Nations, too, have gone to war for the purpose of satisfying their greed. We were at absolute peace with all the world; there was not a fortification along three thousand miles of our boundaries. We had no idea of ever seeking trouble with any other country, nor did we expect any others to seek trouble with us. When you analyse this you will find that such reasons as I have given have been fundamentally responsible for the greater part of the conflicts that have taken place. Canada, however, entered into this war from reasons wholly to her credit; she entered into this war from unselfish motives—first because of the blood tie, the desire to stand by the Motherland in her hour of need, (applause). Secondly, because we realized that all the liberties we enjoyed were in jeopardy and we were anxious to show our

appreciation of that fact; and further, because we had to come to the aid of innocent nations trodden under foot by the brutal Huns.

“Now, if you come to ascertain why Canada is at war you will see it in the underlying principle, and that is unselfishness—and so, as a nation, our doing so loosens up all our best nature. Men are now doing things absolutely from unselfish motives. There are many men who cannot go to the front. There are many men to whom that fact is a source of great grief; they regret keenly that they were born too soon; that perhaps they had an illness in their early days, that business arrangements of a character that cannot be endangered hold them back. Others have home ties they cannot break. Therefore there are still many men at home. I venture to say that there is many a man and many a woman within the sound of my voice today who would have gone to the front if he or she could have gone. Today they are working and have been working since the beginning of the war, asking themselves all the time ‘is there no way in which we can help, no opportunity of sacrifice?’ These seem to be seeking an equivalent that might be measured with and put in the same class as the services of our brave comrades who have laid down their work, bade good-bye to their homes and gone to the front.

“Now the Canadian Patriotic Fund for which I am speaking today gives people like that an opportunity; it gives those who cannot go to the front a great opportunity for sacrifice, an opportunity in keeping with the principles that led Canada into this war. I tell you that when this conflict is finally settled and all the loss we have sustained is weighed finally in the balance, there will be some compensations throughout this entire dominion for the men and women that tried to make some sacrifice to bring this war to a successful conclusion. I am sure that everyone who makes that sacrifice will think more of his Motherland, more of her institutions, more of her reputation, more of her future prosperity on right lines, and we shall have laid

the foundations in character for future generations to build upon. That to some extent at any rate will return to us what we have lost.

“I have been since the beginning of the war designated as the Apostle to the Stay-at-Homes. I cannot go to the war myself, and I cannot ask any man to suffer and die for me; therefore I cannot ask any man to go. If I were in khaki and going I could ask him to come with me. I would gladly do that; now I can only deliver a message to every man and every woman staying at home, living their ordinary lives, enjoying the pleasures of their ordinary lives with their families. I am trying to point out to them where there is an opportunity for them to contribute in helpfulness towards a great accomplishment so that in the years that are to come they may be able to look back on this time of great crisis and say—may every one of us be able to say it—‘Thank God, I did my bit.’

“A celebrated German once wrote a book—probably many of you have read it—the German’s name was von Bernhardi, and his book was called ‘Germany and the next War.’ Von Bernhardi undertook to make a few prophecies as to how that war would turn out. He computed the forces of Russia, France, Italy, Belgium, and as far as the Continent of Europe was concerned he was fairly accurate. Speaking of the British Empire, however, he said that England could put only 250,000 men on the Continent at short notice after the declaration of war. In another year she will send another 250,000. That represents her maximum in a great European war. Then he goes on, and you may remember the phrase—‘As for the Overseas Dominions they are a negligible quantity.’ A negligible quantity! That was written five years ago. Since that time even von Bernhardi and others who belong to the Prussian army have had a chance of ascertaining both the quality and the quantity of the soldiers that come from these negligible Overseas Dominions (applause). And unless I am mightily mistaken, if the war goes on another year a million men will have

come from the Overseas Dominions to stand by the Motherland in her hour of great crisis.

“If anyone had said to you a few years ago that that would be done that Canada at this date would have 375,000 men enlisted, you would have said: ‘This cannot be’; and would have wanted to put him behind the bars as insane. If anyone had said that we would be raising and spending a million dollars a day on a European war, and giving in millions, in tens of millions, to the war, you would have said that is was impossible. But we are doing the impossible. (Applause.) We are doing it every day. We are asking with a perfectly good conscience communities throughout Canada today the things that are absolutely impossible, and they are doing it. That is the strange thing about this whole war. Our perspective is enlarged, our confidence in ourselves is enlarged, our ability to do things is increased. We make requisitions, we of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, that are judged by some to be outrageous, but we are very rarely refused—sometimes, indeed, those requisitions are overwritten and even increased over what we are asking.

“The work that has been assigned to the Patriotic Fund originators and others is a work similar to that of the government. The government undertakes to mobilize our men, our finances and our munitions. We undertake to mobilize a great mass of sympathy, of generous patriotic sympathy and sentiment which is to be found in every community, and which is shared by all generous minds. We are trying to mobilize that, and the same problem in mobilization comes to us, and the same wonderful results as well. There are several splendid funds. They have all appealed to you. They differ, however, in the nature of their appeals and they have different characteristics. The Red Cross Fund and our own work together in perfect harmony but they make a different appeal to the public. To a certain extent their appeal is a sex appeal. The woman who thinks of a soldier lying wounded in hospital, with his

head in a bandage or an arm shattered, is preparing night and day the necessary medical supplies and comforts, and is also willing to raise the money which we men ought to be glad enough to give so that they may not lack materials for carrying on such work. That appeals to the women of Canada particularly. On the other hand we appeal to the men. The man who himself is unable to go is particularly susceptible to the idea that the wife and children of a man in the next block whose bread winner has gone to the front should not suffer. Our work is a man's job. We go to the men of Canada and say to them take up that burden and divide it between you, and as the burden increases each of you carries a larger share of the load! Other funds raise what they can and spend it as it is raised. We have raised what each monthly demand calls for, but every month our demands increase. We have to meet these demands at the beginning of the month or break faith with one hundred thousand soldiers' wives. That is as inexorable as rent and taxes, and the drain on us each month must be coped with. We have always got to make sure that we have enough to meet requirements so we go back again and again to the same community and ask them to raise more than they have raised before. And our argument in support of that is this—that the demands on us are greater than they were.

“In the first four months of the war we spent \$5,000. The average monthly expenditure for 1915 was \$225,000; then that expenditure rose to \$580,000. In 1916 we climbed up to \$680,000, and at present we have reached \$954,000 in our monthly expenditures. October will be pretty close to the one million dollars. That is the rate at which the demands upon us have increased. During the first four months of the war we got more money than was actually needed and there was a residue. That residue has remained intact, but for nearly two years we have lived in a condition of paying out practically all that we received each month. We have had to come back again and again to communities endeavoring to make a fresh collection and asking them to meet

the demands as the demands come in. We are asking for 1917 one million dollars a month. You know how we are going to raise it. We are going to raise it by making a straight appeal to the people, to the stay-at-homes, to take care of the wives and children of those who have gone to the front.

“Sometimes people say: ‘Why does not the government do it?’ I endeavored to deal with that phase of the question last night, so it will not be necessary for me to go into it in extenso today. But I want to point out two things. I say ‘which government?’ You may say ‘the Provincial government.’ Well, if each Provincial government wishes to find the money necessary for the soldiers’ wives and children within their respective areas, I do not suppose we of the Patriotic Fund could raise any strong objection. But it would not be a fair thing; because some provinces have sent a great many more men to the front than others—particularly in British Columbia, and to take your own case you would have to provide two million dollars. But in the case of the voluntary giving the money is liquid and not confined to one district as a provincial fund would be, and it can flow from one province to another and be spent where it is most needed. Indeed the moment you resort to provincial taxation in a province no province will raise more than is locally required. They cannot turn to their taxpayers and ask for money to be spent somewhere else. That will mean that you will have all Canada in water tight compartments and British Columbia will pay more than its proportion ought to be. As to the Dominion government doing it, at the present time the Dominion government is spending a million dollars a day. It is only able to pay one-quarter of its war expenditure by money raised by taxation; the other three-quarters come from loans. So we are borrowing three-quarters of the money we are spending in this war and all owing the burden of repaying it to fall on the future generations. It is only just that they should bear a share of it. But we said to the soldiers when they

went away, 'You may fight or pay. If you fight you will not have to pay.' But if we do not fight we must pay. It would be a strange arrangement if, when the soldiers had gone to fight for you, 370,000 of them, you should sit down and say, 'We undertook to take care of these wives. Let us borrow the money.' In other words to put the names of ourselves and the soldiers on a promissory note and when the soldiers come back they would find that they had to pay as well as to fight, because that is what it would amount to. We said to Tommy, 'You fight and we will pay.' That is not playing the game. We must make a sacrifice, day to day and month to month to enable these women and children to be cared for, and we must see that these wives will get what they are legitimately entitled to.

"I have been asked why does the government not take the whole thing over? Well, we rather pride ourselves on the management of the Canadian Patriotic Fund. We have got a magnificent volunteer committee at Ottawa. We have 700 splendid committees scattered throughout the country. These committees are doing this work gratuitously and there is no politics. I cannot tell the politics of any of the men who work with me in this fund. But if the government is going to take over the work and do it, in the first place you will have government officials appointed by the government in power, paid by the government, their work subject to criticism, and the usual Parliamentary disputes. And this great work carried on by the whole-hearted support of the citizens will be thrown into politics, so that one-half of the community will endorse it and the other half will say it is unfair and improperly done. We cannot afford to have that. It seems to me that we should continue as we have begun.

"I for one should be very sorry to see voluntary giving abandoned. I do not need to speak about the method adopted in the administration of the fund, for I am speaking on that subject nearly every night. I may have the opportunity of addressing you again, or some of you, in one of the

outlying districts. That is a matter of technical detail. We have a volunteer committee at Ottawa which meets every Monday and carefully considers every question of principle and then we carefully follow up also the work of the branches. The result is that we are able to say that the whole fund is administered in a way every business man will approve of.

“At the present time you are spending in British Columbia for soldiers’ dependents about \$135,000 monthly. The impost is increasing rapidly, and in all probability you will spend \$150,000 a month shortly. We are estimating that in 1917 the requirements will be two millions of dollars. That means that you will need five dollars a head, which is more than the Canadian average, indeed more than you have a right to give. Consequently we come to you with this arrangement; let British Columbia raise a million dollars and we shall find the other from places that have not given as many men as you have given. British Columbia, which has sent one man out of every twelve of the population, leads the whole Dominion in the percentage of enlistments. Alberta is pretty close. Manitoba is not far behind. Therefore it is not fair that you should also bear the double burden because of your patriotism. The privilege will, therefore, belong to other communities who have not sent as many men as you have, of helping you out.

“The returns of the provincial organizer, who has visited 20 towns in the interior and on the Island, show that these places which have a total population of 75,000 people have agreed to raise \$400,000 (applause). That is \$5.35 per head. You can do the same in Vancouver if you figure it out. Just to give you an idea of what other places are doing, I may quote a few figures. In Phoenix, with one thousand men, women and children, they raised \$20,000 or twenty dollars per head of the population. In Greenwood, with a population of 600, they got \$12,000 or \$20 per head of the population. Silverton, on Slocan Lake, raised \$8,000, and they said they were ashamed of it, and would give

\$15,000 next year. They have a population of only one thousand people. At Trail the smelter men's patriotic society are giving one day's pay a month. They turned in about five thousand dollars to the committee, which all-ocates that amount to the ladies of the Red Cross, and to the prisoners of war fund, but the proportion they observe is always 80 per cent. to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, because that is the proportion of our needs to others. Rossland gave us \$35,000 or nine dollars a head. Kaslo gave \$10,000, Cranbrook \$20,000, Fernie \$30,000, and so on, making in all \$400,000. Now I was told the other day that the minimum from Vancouver ought to be \$400,000. But of course if you would like to do better and run that figure up to half a million we should not object.

“Vancouver has not been helping as generously as it might. I know that in Vancouver conditions have not been what they might have been in other circumstances. You have an average of \$1.25 per head per year since the war began. You can, I think, do better than that. We realize that your conditions at the outset of the war were not as prosperous as elsewhere and you have not profited directly by the war as some other communities have; but we are banking on the knowledge that you have public spirit, and we know that if you get under this undertaking you will raise the amount that is needed. You will be proud of yourselves if you do. I want to point out that Vancouver has received from the fund \$775,000. You have contributed \$425,000, and we have given you \$350,000. This is money raised by sacrifice in every community and we do not grudge it, but we do want you to bridge the gulf somewhat between the income and the expenditure. Here today we have the business men of Vancouver, the men who have given Vancouver its reputation and upon whom it depends for the future; now, as there is friendly rivalry throughout the whole Dominion amongst the cities, if you can say that Vancouver will help and give her share that will be known throughout the Dominion everywhere and you shall benefit.

They will say 'Look at that Vancouver community; see how they are giving.' That fact spread abroad will do you an immense amount of good, and the attitude that your fellow Canadians will assume towards you in Vancouver will be shaped accordingly. You do not want the rest of Canada to say that Vancouver is on its back; that Vancouver is not a good place to come to; that business houses had better stay out of Vancouver altogether. No; you want them to know that Vancouver is prosperous and that she is also generous. Now, to raise this money, it is only, I know, a matter of asking, of making sure that every individual in Vancouver and the suburbs is giving what he ought to give. It is true that you have not here now the bright active men that you had one or two years ago; they have gone to a greater field of endeavor—some indeed have passed over beyond and will never help you again; but the rest of you will have to make up for them, and the bright young men of the Canadian Club must have their places filled for them. Some men may think that they are too busy to help in this work, or to lay down their tasks and help, or that they have often helped in the past. Suppose the boys in France are tired out fighting in the field—suppose they said they were going home, what would you think of them? Well, as long as they stick to their job you must stick to yours, and you have no right whatever to say you are tired.' (Applause).

On behalf of the Women's Canadian Club Mrs. Ralph Smith, the president, suitably thanked Sir Herbert for his address.

CAPT. the HON. RUPERT GUINNESS, M. P.

— ON —

“Recruiting for Imperial Navy.”

(November 7th, 1916)

Captain the Hon. Rupert Guinness, a well known British member of Parliament, was the guest of honor at a luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club in the Hotel Vancouver November 7. Mr. F. W. Peters, presided, and dealt with the work of the guest of the occasion in the formation of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Capt. Guinness said: “At the beginning of this war the navy was luckily prepared. It would never have been prepared if it had not a vast reserve, the Naval Volunteer Reserve. This reserve I am proud to think mobilized itself practically one might say, and came forward to a man in a creditably short space of time at the outbreak of war. Indeed they were almost a burden; they turned up in such large numbers. They consisted of three kinds. First, the fleet reserves, that is of men who had five years in the fleet and had been properly trained, and were under obligation to come forward for four years after their five years’ service. They supplied a very large reserve indeed. Behind them again came the Royal Naval Reserve composed of men who were seafaring men but who were not Royal Navy men—merchant sailors and fishermen. They, too, mobilized at a remarkably rapid rate; and behind them again was the force of which I am the senior officer—the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. I raised the London division of that force eleven years before the outbreak of war and we had satisfied the naval authorities—a thing upon which we can look back with satisfaction—that men, civilians in ordinary life, amateurs, giving a certain amount of time to the naval service, could be used with great effect at the outbreak of hostilities. That vast body of reserves was so great that it enabled Mr. Churchill to form

a naval division. You may readily understand that when Canada at the outbreak of war, and some time after, offered volunteers for the naval service they were not wanted, because when that naval reserve was used up there was an enormous mass of the population in England who would have given anything to serve in the navy rather than in the army.

“As time went on the flow of civilian population kept coming forward to increase the personnel of the navy. However, the screw was tightened until everybody was included in the military service of the country; that is to say they were either soldiers or in munition factories. Then it became obvious that if we began to recruit for the navy we would be depleting the potential army. So we had to look for a new field, and the offer that Canada had made us was—I would not say accepted because it was not exactly in the form of an offer—but I was sent out here to enter into negotiations with your government under cover of getting men at the ordinary English rates of pay. It was obvious that we should not get many Canadians at the English rates of pay, so the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, very patriotically and generously offered in the name of Canada to make up the difference in the pay, and a scheme has now been formed by which Canadians are given the opportunity of serving in British ships in the Overseas Division of the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, and they are to receive the same rate of pay as your soldiers and other considerations as well. They are to be a Canadian force, and while they are serving in British ships they are to receive only that portion of their pay which is the same sum of money as that which the British sailor receives of similar rating.

“As I have said ships are always coming off the stocks and crews have to be found for them. We cannot get those crews from the merchant service and we must get them somewhere; and I am hoping that you will bring the problem home to your friends in order that the whole of the

population of the city and of the district will appreciate what an opportunity is being offered them. They will, in fact, if they feel so patriotically inclined, offer themselves as sailors in these forces, and they will proceed as early as may be across the Atlantic to be trained in one of the three English depots—Chatham, Portsmouth and Devonport. Everyone of these men will be given a short period of training in a seagoing ship, and I should not be surprised if, within three months of the time of arrival in England, say four months from now, these men will be serving in one of Admiral Jellicoe's chief battleships.

“I want you to help me in this matter, to bring it to the notice of all your friends in order that it may be generally understood. I want to ask you to do that service, because Canada has made the offer of five thousand men to the Admiralty, and the Admiralty want two thousand of them before the end of the year. That is two thousand in two months, and afterwards 300 or 400 men each month. I am also going to ask you if you will appoint here a committee to give me the names of those who will form a recruiting committee of leading citizens of your city. Representatives for a provincial committee will also be needed in order that the scheme that is being framed at Ottawa may be put into force.

“In order to get results quickly I want these committees rapidly formed, so as to get the thing done without delay. I want you to name the proper people to represent your city.

“I scarcely need remind you that the enemy's coasts are the British Empire's frontiers. It is on the North Sea, on the coasts of Germany, you are being defended (applause). There is no use having your ports open if your ships cannot arrive regularly and safely. I need not in a port like this elaborate that. But if we look to the future, as we must look, we must see that Britain's empire is always safeguarded by an absolutely paramount naval supremacy (applause). Otherwise Britain may go back to be Britain, and Canada will be just Canada (‘Never,’ and applause). It

was only by being prepared on sea that we did not find our empire disrupted by this war (applause). It is in the name of the empire and for the sake of humanity that I am asking you to make an effort for this navy and to make it in the near future especially'' (applause).

Mr. H. O. Bell-Irving, requested by the president to convey thanks of the gathering to the speaker, alluded to the debt which the service the speaker represented was owing from the whole of Canada. He pointed out how keenly that fact was realized now in Canada, and alluded to the regret felt by many Canadians that their Dominion had done so little in the past for the British navy.



Rev. W. H. VANCE, President 1916-17.

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REV. HENRI ANET

— ON —

“Belgium Under German Occupation.”

(December 8th, 1916.)

Rev. Henri Anet, a Belgian Huguenot pastor, touring in the interests of his church in the United States and Canada, was the guest of honor at a luncheon at the Canadian Club on December 8. The chair was occupied by Mr. R. R. Maitland.

Rev. Mr Anet said in part: “When our gallant king Albert (applause) opened the Belgian Parliament on the 4th August (applause) he declared that ‘Belgium can be defeated, but subdued—never (applause). God shall help us in our righteous cause.’ I never met in Belgium anyone who disagreed with that statement of our gallant king, and I have been in Belgium during the first months of the German occupation when I was in the neighborhood of Brussels, and also amongst the refugees in England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Switzerland; and with the soldiers in the trenches on the French and Belgian front. Now, after two years of suffering and oppression, I am sure there is not a single Belgian worthy of the name who is willing to make peace at any price, or to get his personal freedom at the expense of the national liberty or of international righteousness (applause). At the call of honor and duty the whole nation has responded marvellously and with a great courage.

“Amongst so many heroes let me name first our king, Albert (applause). King Albert has been the soul of the Belgian resistance, and I do not think we could have resisted as we did before the sudden onset of the German army except for the spirit of the king. He has not only been at the head of the resistance because he is the king, and the head

of the army but because he has really been the man for the situation. He has acted with great dignity and courage and a spirit of self-sacrifice, and he has obeyed the call of duty. He has been followed in that by the Queen, who is quite as popular as he is (applause).

“The royal children have also taken their share in the war very courageously, both in Antwerp and now at the front at La Panne on the coast. When I was at the Belgian front last autumn I saw the two princes coming out of the Roman Catholic church with their staff. The Crown Prince, who is fifteen years old, wore the uniform of one of our line regiments, and looked very tiny beside his tall staff officer. He is volunteering on his own account, and more or less against the will of his mother—or rather indeed against that of his sister. He has become a volunteer in the Belgian army, and he has already been in the trenches with his battalion. His brother is not yet old enough to be a soldier. He is with the rest of the family at La Panne, within the range of the German heavy artillery.

“Our soldiers have been also acting like heroes. The Belgian army is not destroyed (applause). It is larger than ever—150,000 men are now better equipped, and have more and better artillery, and are generally more effective than at the beginning of the war. I am sure you will hear more about them, as you have heard about the Serbians, before the end of this terrible war.

“It is a very important part of the front that they hold, because the Belgians are protecting the coast line, and the flank of that long line of the Allies. To know how effective that help has been I may tell you that they stood for 14 days in October, 1914, without any help from the British or French armies against the German advance. If the Belgians had not held their places very strongly during that 14 days against the Germans, who were in great force, Dunkirk, and very likely Calais itself, would have been taken. You know what that would have meant to England if the Germans had got to Calais.

“The heroism of the soldiers is great, and when I speak of our soldiers I mean the other soldiers too. The Canadian soldiers, I know, are amongst the bravest of the brave (applause). But if the heroism of the soldiers is great, the heroism of the civilian population in the territory occupied by the enemy is greater still. It is perhaps of a higher degree as I think it is more difficult to obey the call of duty, and to remain cheerful and faithful to one's fatherland, when you are a civilian under oppression, than when you are a soldier in the ranks surrounded by your comrades and friends, and inspired by the cause for which you are fighting. It is impossible to realize what life is for our friends in the territory occupied by the Germans. I have tasted a few months of the German regime; and I had quite enough of it when I left the country and was sent to make an appeal in other countries on behalf of the work which we are doing. During the first few months of the war the situation was better than it is now, and the oppression of the German was not so strong as it is now, or as it has become this year. You know how the population has suffered. You have read in your newspapers the report of the commission of inquiry about the German atrocities. It is not necessary for me to add to what Lord Bryce has so clearly set forth. I know personally the members of the present commission—the secretary is a friend of mine, and all are first rate men, clever, and honest, and absolutely impartial, and there is no possibility of deceiving them. I am ready to endorse them with the fullest confidence from what I have seen in Belgium: What has been published by the commission of inquiry is not exaggerated; they have indeed told only a small part of the truth, which will not be known completely until after the war. As a contrast to the behavior of so many of the German soldiers, I am glad to give my testimony as to the behavior of the French and British soldiers and officers fighting on Belgian soil during the first months of the war (applause). The British troops fighting in the region of Mons, I have been told by several of my colleagues

who were in the thick of the fighting there with them, behaved well. Indeed, my colleagues spoke in terms of the highest admiration of the consideration they showed for the poor people, the working people affected by the invasion. Their sobriety in spite of the hot weather was remarkable. The British soldiers of the First Army refused not only the spirits and wines, but sometimes even the beer offered them freely—to the great astonishment of the Belgian people. Nearly all the soldiers were total abstainers (applause).

“Conditions are very bad in Belgium now, as the cost of living has gone up. I had information from two or three colleagues of mine in August last—they are Swiss and were thus able to leave Belgium for a few weeks, and they tell me that the cost of living is increasing in dreadful proportion in Brussels. You cannot get meat there at less than \$1.20 a pound. Butter costs at least 80 cents a pound, coffee, and that of the worst quality, 75 cents a pound, and a small piece of soap, sold in times of peace at 4 cents, costs now 25 cents, and even at that price it is difficult to get.

“Things are getting worse now in Belgium. The deportations are taking place on a large scale, and there is no justification for them. The Germans pretend that the people are not willing to work, but I know that the people have worked steadily in many of our districts in the last two years. I know that the peasants are tilling their fields as well as they can. If the better class artisans in the cities are not working, it is not because they will not work, but because the Germans have taken away all the machinery from the factories, and everything they think they need (applause).

Dr. Anet concluded as follows: “We want your sympathy and help, but not your pity. (Applause.)

“You ought rather to envy us because we are learning the greatest of all lessons now, those of suffering and persecution and of self-sacrifice. We are learning the little relative value of wealth; we are learning the importance

of pity and of sacrifice, and the joy of service for a great and noble cause'' (loud applause).

LIEUT.-COL. P. A. GUTHRIE

— ON —

“Canada’s Part in the War.”

(December 11th, 1916.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was given in the Hotel Vancouver on December 11, when Mr. R. R. Maitland, vice-president, presided over an enthusiastic gathering which heard Lt.-Col. P. A. Guthrie, Officer Commanding the 236th Battalion, deliver an address on “Canada’s Part in the War.”

“Lt.-Col. Guthrie said in part: “Canada has taken a wonderful part in this war and even Canadians—many of them today—have not yet come to realize just what Canada has done in this struggle and what that means to the empire. We all know that when war was declared we were in Canada an uneducated people so far as war was concerned. We simply knew nothing about it, and particularly in this great west we had followed our business, intent on making our fortunes or misfortunes, whichever they proved to be. We as a people were quite willing to be protected by the folds of the British flag and wrapped by Britain herself. When the war came to us, and before it, we did not think of looking across the Rhine to see what was being prepared there for us. We never discerned it, and we, in this commonwealth of peoples, did not listen to the words of those who would have warned us—to the voice of Lord Roberts (applause)—that the war when it came would be long and hard, that it would be a war of artillery and of infantry, and that Britain must prepare. We scoffed at Lord Beresford when he tried to tell us the truth, and we know that there was never an ‘emergency’ in Canada, not even when we were asked to place three of the best ships we could buy at the disposal of the British government in the North Sea.

“I am not wishful to make reflections against any statesmen nor the things they may have done in the past. We have found that we in Canada were wrong, entirely wrong; we did nothing when we should have been up and doing.

“As one coming back from the front, after having been a considerable time there, you may perhaps like to hear a story or two about what the boys did when they got there. You will remember how we had the first division at Valcartier; how in the largest fleet that ever crossed the Atlantic they went to Old England. And you recollect when they got there how a great many generals came down, all over gold braid and lace and looked us over and then said the discipline was bad. In fact they hinted that the Canadians never knew what discipline was. Then the Canadians were sent to Salisbury Plain, where it rained for 71 days out of the 91 they were there. (Laughter.) One Canadian indeed said that the Germans could never conquer England because of the weather. Then we crossed the narrow seas to do our little bit with Englishmen, Scotsmen, Welshmen, Irishmen, and the men from India. Then we went into the trenches and got our first taste of war, losing a few men. But, as we afterwards learned, we did not know what war was until April 22nd, 1915, at Ypres. That battle will stand out more prominently in Canadian people's eyes than any other they may have to fight, because it was there, for the first time, that the Canadians faced the gas clouds which had been turned on that thin line at Ypres which was holding that salient at that point. I have been asked to describe what that experience was like. I shall try to bring it to my remembrance, and the effect it had as it rolled down that line of gallant men facing its oncoming terrors. I recollect that when the gas reached the Canadians it was about five o'clock in the afternoon, and just at that time, along that front, the scene was peaceful—that is as peaceful as it ever is. Sometimes we get periods when there are so few shells dropping that we think

that peace must surely have come. But they were really preparing for us all that time. Then the gas was pumped through long terra cotta pipes painted green and laid out into No Man's Land. It issued forth and gradually rose and became a cloud. Then the breeze caught it and down it came on us. I will try to describe it all for you. The sun was shining brightly when this great cloud descended on us. The rays of the sun caught it and turned it to a golden glory, with a centre of purple and a base of black. The Canadians, I should explain, had been back in the billets, having been in the trenches for some days previously, and for the moment everything seemed peaceful. Then that cloud passed, the grass turned brown, the trees lost their leaves which turned yellow and the little birds dropped lifeless from their branches. Their song is heard no more, and 40,000 of those brave Algerians are poisoned. There they lay gasping out their lives in pain and agony. The line was broken! And von Hindenburg, with his 140,000 men, swept on against 30,000 Canadians, hoping for victory. But he reckoned without those 30,000 'Canucks,' those men that were born for the empire's needs from the womb of our Lady of the Snows. (Loud applause.) They were there ready under their commanders, Arthur Currie (cheers) and the others who had given up everything to lead them. One of them had ceased to peddle groceries to come there; another, Dave Watson, had ceased to print the Quebec Chronicle. They led the Canadians forward beneath that gas-cloud, striving one and all only to get to close quarters with the Hun. And as the gas clouds lifted these 140,000 men were hurled back and back again (cheers), and the Canadians, after three nights and days of fighting without reinforcements, held firm, and fought the enemy back and back again, just as they drove them at St. Julien and from hedge to ditch, repelling attacks and standing firm. They got reinforcements at last, and they had only given about two and a quarter miles, although they were but 30,000 strong; and they had to hold against 140,000 men of the German

army (applause). That day they fought so that the Germans said the Canadians were not soldiers at all but fanatics, and would not agree to the principles of war at all. They said that the Canadians were beaten but they did not know it; but if we are placed in the position of being the most ignorant people in the world in that respect we are content to go down in Germany history with that belief attached to us (laughter and applause).

“You have sent some wonderful men out from Canada, some wonderful soldiers—men who perhaps here at home you may look upon not as the leaders of men that they are, but casually as ordinary citizens. Who would have known that Arthur Currie a few years ago would have done the task that he has accomplished? Who would have thought he would have risen to the occasion when the German wedge was being driven in our line? Who would have thought that he would have had the grit to undertake the work that came to him! But history is full of such things. We now know that no greater general has taken charge of troops in this war than A. W. Currie (applause)—of British Columbia. I remember him when the line was being pushed back, when the old Eighth Battalion—one of whose officers is here today (applause)—was holding a stiff part of the line, Currie came over to the Third Brigade, to where the Seventh and Tenth were fighting, and he took the men he needed and sent them to help Lipsett. It was in the middle of the Saturday night when the rain was pouring down, he led us across the shell-swept roadways through the mud, and across the ditches filled with water and mud. He took us there quickly in order to arrive before the fog lifted in the morning. He took us to help Old Man Lipsett, as he called him. I can remember that general as he shook hands with an officer and then with a private—they were all the same to him—(applause)—and cheerfully slapped them on the back. Yet he had been, on the occasion of which I spoke, three days and nights without sleep, and had hardly eaten or drunk. It is such men as that that have been sent to fight

for the empire, and it is by them that the name of Canada will shine proudly in this war. (Applause.)

“I remember at Festubert how I reported the Tenth Battalion, and how it had kept the 425 yards assigned to it. He asked ‘How many men have you got?’ And I told him our losses. He asked me how they fought and I told him. And then he asked about the men individually—about Sergeant Stevens who had led a bomb attack—and when I told him about the boys and how they had suffered he began to weep like a child. It is men with such hearts as this that you have sent from Canada.

“I cannot refrain from telling you that on the night that Currie led us with the Seventh and Eighth Battalions, Victor Odlum (applause) represented British Columbia—and very few men who have left Canada to go to the war will fight as well as that same Victor Odlum (applause), who is now a Brigadier-General on the firing line. You have heard something about what the Sixteenth Battalion has done but in case you have not heard of what took place when the guns were recovered at Ypres, I will tell you. Four British guns had been surrounded, and two regiments of the Prussian Guards, supposed to be the best regiments in the German army, were there holding them. Everyone realized that those guns must be taken back, for it would be a lasting disgrace to leave four British guns in the hands of the enemy. So the Tenth and Sixteenth were called upon, and they, at 12.15 a.m., charged into what was a mystery to them—charged into the wood in the darkness, not knowing how many men were there. But they did not give a damn (applause). On they went, and the Sixteenth was led by General Leckie; and his second in command was Jack Leckie, his brother, who is now, I understand, also a Brigadier-General. Such are some of the men who come from British Columbia (applause); they are an honor and pride to your province. But as I have said there is not east and west in Canada any longer; we in New Brunswick

claim them as ours just as much as you claim them as yours.

“With reference to what ought to be done at present so far as Canada is concerned, I believe that the time has now come when every ounce of our manhood between 18 and 45 ought to be thrown into the game (applause). I solemnly believe that at the present juncture we are more in danger of losing this war than at any time since the war began—with the possible exception of the retreat from Mons. I will ask you people in this country who think we are winning the war, who see us pushing the Germans back, how far do you think we have pushed them back already? Only a few miles on the western front—in some places only a few yards. And yet we talk of going to Berlin. Now you can figure it out for yourselves. Berlin is about as far off as Calgary is from here. And if, as the result of our last effort, we gained three and a half miles, losing 150,000 men on a few miles of front, you can guess for yourselves something of the task before us.

“Are we winning the war? If so, why is Belgium still over-run? Only a little strip of it is still in our hands. Why is one-tenth of France still under the enemy's heel? Why is Serbia still wiped off the map?? Why is Montenegro no more? Why have we been unable to send troops to help the people of Roumania. Roumania will also be wiped off the map. Now, I am no pessimist, but it seems to me that with things as they are we are up against a mighty people; we are fighting a people that will not stop at anything while the last man and their last dollar is available. They are just as keen as we are, and we must accept them as we find them.

“What will happen if the Greeks bring 400,000 men against us in the next few days? We are trying to help the Roumanians, but at the same time we have 400,000 troops menacing us in the rear, so that we must face two ways at once. The situation in the light of such facts is undoubtedly serious.

“Just consider where we would have been if we had conscription throughout the empire when the war started, and if we had had one million more men at the disposal of the War Office? We would be able to turn that million men into General Sarrail’s army; we should be able to subjugate the Greeks very quickly and render assistance to Roumania very quickly. We are just one million men behind the game. If we had had that million men when we wanted them Serbia would be on the map today, Montenegro would be saved. Roumania would have come in earlier in the game because the necessary support would have been forthcoming, and our history of the war in the Balkans would have been very different.

“What have we instead? We have our young men sticking around their homes, going to the opera house in the evenings, smoking fat cigars, reading the news and getting weary of the same old story on the western front. In France the people woke immediately the war commenced; the war was there beside them. I went to France feeling that I was going amongst a frivolous population, but found that I could go 400 miles in that country without seeing a smile on the face of a woman. I saw women working in the fields. I saw in Belgium the same thing. I came back to England, to Old England, and found that the young men of that country had left the dance halls and the playing fields and had answered to Beatty’s call. When Britain leaves the wine shop and the dance halls and turns to tears and prayers we shall begin to win this war.” (Applause).

“There are young men in Canada who go into cabarets every evening in their lives with ill-clad women while their comrades are in the trenches. His friend may be at the front spilling his blood for that same young man, and that this thing may go on. I tell you, my friends, it is up to the people at home to get busy. How many of you here have gone hungry one meal by reason of this war?? How many of your women and children have suffered?

“We in Canada must back up with all our power in the

best way we can the boys fighting at the front. Our men are in the trenches today giving their lives, suffering casualties, because they are fighting for their homes, for love of the flag that has swept the seas for a thousand years—that Rodney nailed at his masthead—and for the whole empire, that after this war will stand up greater and larger in the eyes of the world than it ever has before” (loud applause).

MAJOR J. S. MATTHEWS
— ON —
“Capture of Regina Trench.”

(February 12th, 1917.)

Major J. S. Matthews, of the 102nd Battalion, was the guest of honor at the Vancouver Canadian Club luncheon at the Hotel Vancouver on February 12. Rev. W. H. Vance, president of the club, occupied the chair.

Major Matthews said in part: “I have made a few notes, gentlemen, in connection with the Regina trench, which is my subject today. I will lead up to it through the 102nd Battalion. About the 2nd December, a year ago, Colonel Warden, or rather Captain Warden as he was then, was on his way back from Ypres wounded. He had obtained authority to raise the 102nd Battalion. The second in command was soon selected, Major Worsnop, one of our Vancouver boys, and let me tell you right now a very brave officer (applause)—I know. We were rather a lonely battalion, I may say. You see, the 72nd Battalion had the 72nd at home, the 158th was joined with the Duke of Connaught’s Own, but the 102nd was not attached to any particular city. We had no camp in Hastings Park; we had none at Victoria, but when our camp was chosen we went to a sterile spot like Comox (laughter). April 30th saw us up to full strength. June 10th we were on our way to England, and August 10th we were in the fighting line at Ypres. October 21 there was a pretty sad-looking 102nd. I cannot tell you all about them because I have lost all my records, but I can tell you something about the officers, because I remember them, and the proportion is about the same.

“The officers numbered 43 on October 10. Ten were killed and 16 wounded; then thirteen have been transferred to the staff—Colonel Worsnop to the command of the

Fiftieth Battalion and of the original officers which left Canada there are now only four.

“No Man’s Land is British territory—that is a matter of pride to the troops. No German is allowed out there (loud applause). The night patrols go on their bellies, the one man hanging on to the heels of the other in front. And we have to be very careful. The troops all along have to be notified where the patrols go out and when they come in. There are pre-arranged signals. They will take off their wrist watches which have luminous dials and wave them back and forward so that the sentries can see them and know what is going on. We had a bad accident at Ypres. We sent out eight men one night on a night patrol. In some way they managed to turn round a tree, and in the darkness the front man shot the man in the rear. The result of the flash was that the Germans turned the machine guns on all of them and the casualties were heavy. When we left Ypres we were sent to the other end of the British line—that adjoining the French. When we passed the French authorities always played the Marseillaise.

“The position at the Somme I had better describe to you. The salient was something like this. It started say at Steveston, ran along to Westminster on one side and to Port Moody on the other; Squamish would represent Arras and Lillooet Ypres. Vancouver, let us say, is Albert, the centre from which all operations are directed. Over here to our right the French occupied the trenches as far as Westminster, and over there by Port Moody would be Courcellette. In front of this would be the Regina Trench. Running from Albert, that is Vancouver, in the direction of New Westminster, is the Albert-Bapaume road. Though badly shaken up (the territory around is badly shaken up) it was not then as bad as it is now. Now you cannot see the villages around at all; they are no longer there; you can only see the track where they have been, and you know a town has been there. I cannot describe it to you. I was going over the ground one morning with Major Worsnop

when he said: 'What does this remind you of?' and I said 'Shaughnessy Heights.' (Laughter). It looked like it before it was cleared. The tanks were there as big as a street car, with moving bands running round them and two or three two-inch guns in them.

"Up this main road from Albert to Bapaume the automobiles were going up with munitions and coming back with men or with wounded. Piles of munitions—great heaps of them—have been collected here covered with earth on the top, everything that a million men might require—and it is the greatest collection of war materials I suppose in the history of the world.

"Now I will go on to the Regina Trench. It is out in front, and what was known as the Vancouver Trench was formerly our old front line. It was called that as a compliment to the 102nd Battalion. On Wednesday night we were told to go in. All preparations were made for attack on Thursday morning, but a severe downfall of rain made an attack impossible. As for the mud, I cannot describe it; it was in our pockets or up our sleeves; the machine guns would not work on account of it, and you could not open the bolt of a rifle. The attack on that occasion was cancelled. On the Friday night we were sent in to prepare for an attack on Saturday morning. Let me tell you first, however, something about what Courcellette looked like. Let us suppose that Deadman's island is Courcellette. There was a dressing station 40 feet underground first; going towards the C. P. R. there was a colonel's dug-out with his telephone. On Georgia street would be Vancouver Trench, and over on Nelson street would be Regina Trench, held by the Germans. That was the crest of a hill, just as the crest on Nelson street going down towards Kitsilano. We could see Miramont in the distance, and they are getting close to that now (applause).

"I should have told you that the old front line in this salient, which runs from North Vancouver and Westminster and back to Ladner's—the old front line would be about

Main street. The Germans had been gradually pushed back until we had driven them as far as Westminster. Returning to Courcellette, which is Deadman's island, there had been three former attacks on the Regina Trench. I cannot say who were in the first and second, but the Sixteenth were in the third. On October 8th they were badly cut up. The wire had not been properly cut. In building a wire entanglement stakes are driven down and men are trained to run barbed wire all over it, making an impassible barrier. It is almost impossible to clip it, and it must be shelled. To give you an idea of the power of these shells, I have seen a rifle barrel bent like a hoop by the effect of an explosion of them. Well, the shells cut the wire to pieces. That had not been properly done on the occasion of which I speak, although the wire looked as if it had been. The result was that the Sixteenth actually broke through and took the Regina trench and the two battalions on either side of them did not. The capture of the Regina trench thus put the Sixteenth in the position of having Germans on both sides of them. They were finally ordered to evacuate. They did not come back; they were ordered to evacuate (applause). In doing that they suffered severe casualties. It was there that Major Goodall (applause), formerly of the City Hall, was lost.

“The night before the attack we moved up about nine o'clock. That night I was at the head of my company—Macdonald was in the rear. He is the son of Mr. Macdonald K. C., and he was wounded in the arm. Nicholls and Joe Wilson, son of Mr. B. Wilson of this city, were the only officers. On our right was the 87th Battalion. The night was very cold. When we got in there was a question as to where we could put our men. We had to put in not only our own companies and provide for them, but also the third and fourth waves. After a consultation with Major Worsnop we decided to dig saps out in front of Regina trench and put the third and fourth waves in these, so that when we advanced the first and second waves would follow us.

At 3 o'clock in the morning I was told that this would not do, and after we had dug these saps we were told to dig a trench to the rear. I called the men in, and to show you how men will dig when they have got to, they dug 350 yards of trench four feet deep—two hundred men, between 3 o'clock and daylight. I found Major Rothley was in the rear, my own company in front. That night was very cold, and there was frost on the ground, but the mud was still deep in the trenches. I had lost my coat and I spent the night, or part of it, with one of my orderlies who lent me half of his, sitting back to back with him on a piece of wet mud.

“His arm was down one sleeve and my arm was down the other getting what warmth we could from each other's backs. That was how I spent part of the night before the attack. I should explain that every man carries two bombs in his pocket. Some carry so many as ten. They carry gas masks ready to slip them on in five seconds; forty-eight hours' rations and water for you may have to go three days without anything more, and some rockets which you send up to let the artillery know when you want assistance.

“All our plans are made from what is known as the zero hour. When a barrage starts it will play for one minute on certain spots, four minutes on a trench, one minute on one hundred yards behind the trench, two hundred yards the same, and so on. The zero hour is the time on which all things are based from the time on which you go over the top. Somehow it nearly always happens the Germans get to know how you are going to start. When we were to have attacked on that Thursday morning, which did not come off owing to the weather, the Germans opened upon us just the same. How they got to know about it I do not know, but the zero hour has been arranged so as to give you only a quarter of an hour before the attack commences. At six minutes past twelve we were to attack that day. Everything was got ready, and the men were in shape when the barrage opened up. It is very hard to describe what a

barrage is like. It may be likened to a storm of hail on a placid lake. It drives up the earth in showers and the noise is amazing. The man next me cannot hear me speak. It seems impossible for anything to live in it. There is the danger of being struck in the back in advancing. You are usually bowed well down. You follow within thirty yards. When the barrage opens up there is nothing to do—the men go themselves (applause). I remember in the excitement saying ‘Look! look! look!’ at those fellows over there! It was one of the grandest sights. Major Homer Dixon’s company got away in four lines actually as if they were going to church, standing up straight. We had about 500 yards to go. I went with the second; the third and fourth followed. There was no excitement; we were talking as we went along; but I remember saying to some of the men, ‘Don’t be frightened; come along.’ We finally got across. Men were dropping here and there but the fellows were going quietly. Out in front were the machine guns in case of a counter-attack on the Regina trench. As we went along we in our party got too close, so we had to stop. Major Rothley’s men had gone by me. I saw him getting Germans out of a dug-out—they were rooted out as fast as they could go. It looked like nothing so much as throwing stones at a dog (laughter).

“I went on, and I must tell you that of the Regina trench the barrage did not leave anything of it. I got behind a machine gun and was hit on the side of the head and went down in a heap. Then, gentlemen, my batman, Taylor, who was a butcher by trade before he joined us, came to my help. I called out, and though the bullets were flying around pretty thick he got out bandages and attended to my head just as quietly as if there was nothing at all going on. Then he tried to pack me back to Regina trench, but could not get me back. Presently Mr. Wilson gave me a drink of water, and poor Captain Nicholls gave me one of whiskey. He is now gone. I lay there for nearly an hour. I had hard work to stop them taking me into

the front line; but I told them not, because we might have all been killed. I told Taylor I could crawl, so we started, but I really could not go very far. He packed me again until he was hit in the hand and half of the back of it blown away. Yet he kept on and carried me down through that trench until he fainted (loud applause). I lay in the mud there looking like a fool. He finally got me to the dressing station long after dark (renewed applause). The officers who went over were Major Rothley, Mr. Copp, son of Captain Copp of Vancouver. Major Homer Dixon, who was hit in the back, presumably by our own shells, Mr. Carse from Prince Rupert, and the others.

“The aeroplanes fly down over the trenches, and you have a little piece of white tin in your pocket, or your handkerchief, and you wave it, or you have a flare and show that, and they then take the news back to headquarters as to whether the attack has been successful or not. When my second in command was coming out, talking to Major Lee, he was struck by a shell that killed him on the spot, and left Major Lee standing.

“My recollections at the front are worth a million to me. As to our treatment in England it is kindness itself. A Canadian going into a tram car in London will always notice people nudge each other and say, ‘A Canadian.’ They apparently did not expect anything from Canada like Canada has given. People there have spoken to me and have said, ‘You are a Canadian, are you not? Well, it was very kind of you to come’ (applause). They evidently did not expect the colonies to do anything like what they have done—that they would have sent a million men to England, and everyone of them volunteers (applause). When Kitchener called for 300,000 men we said, ‘Audacious’; but Canada alone has sent more men than that” (applause).

**D. A. CLARK, G. A. KIDD, E. J. LEVESON
and W. H. MALKIN**

— ON —

“A National Business Government.”

(February 26th, 1917)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver, on February 26. Rev. W. H. Vance occupied the chair. The subject of a national business government for Canada was set down for discussion and four speakers specially selected dealt with it in brief speeches. A resolution on the lines of one adopted elsewhere in Canada was brought forward for the information of the members, but no effort was made to have it adopted.

The president in opening the proceedings asked that the National Anthem should be sung to commemorate the retreat of the Germans on the western front recorded that day and the re-capture of Kut-el-Amara. This having been honored with the toast of the King, the president proceeded to explain that this was the first occasion when citizens had spoken on a subject of vital interest before the club.

“The Executive of the Vancouver Club,” continued the President, “decided without a single dissentient to hold a luncheon for the discussion of the question. That question is rather ‘Do we need a national government?’—the reorganizing of the present administration along national lines by including in it men of recognized ability irrespective of Parliamentary experience. Toronto has voted seven to one in favor of the proposal and Winnipeg has also adopted it. The Vancouver Club, however, was not called upon to pass a resolution, but merely to hear different views upon it: There is no subject so pertinent to Canada as this (applause), and it is certainly not out of place in a Canadian Club” (applause). The speaker concluded by assuring the Club that no question of propaganda entered into its consid-

eration of the matter, but he thought the question as it stood was worthy of their attention.

Mr. D. A. Clarke, the first speaker, called upon, said: "As regards a national government, the term is too vague. As the first speaker it is my right to give my own interpretation of it. In the name of our illustrious dead, in the name of our heroic lads offering up their lives, in the name of the sanctity of our very homes, I call upon the Premier of Canada to obtain the wisest counsel that can be obtained from any source whatever (applause), regardless of party, or creed, or sectionalism, to govern this country in the trying ordeal it is going through (applause). That, gentlemen, is my interpretation of national government. I do not mean that the party in power have not got good men, but that they must get better. It is up to our Premier, who himself is no strong party man, being a Liberal until he accepted a Conservative seat, and selecting for his Finance Minister a Liberal, but one who is beyond party. We want men like these—more and more of them. Everybody, however, says 'Do not take any notice of politics,' but I say why should we not? Are we not all interested in our country and in the government of our country? We are not politicians, but we are and must be interested in politics.

"I make reference to this because I refer again to this interview in the newspapers wherein it is suggested that if we had a business government in Canada we might be governed by the financial and business interests. That interview held that the business, manufacturing and financial interests should have nothing to say to the government of the country. It was pointed out that if Lord Shaughnessy was taken into the government, and, say, a foremost banker in Toronto, it would not do when railway matters and banking matters were being discussed. But that is the very thing we need. But that spirit of politics being for the party only is passing away (applause). Our civilization, of which we have been so proud, has gone down in the war; but I want to contrast with it the civilization of 23 centuries

ago—with that of 445 B.C. A great Athenian orator said to the citizens of Athens, 'Our citizens attend to both public and private duties and do not allow absorption in their own various affairs to interfere with the enlargement of the city's. We differ from other cities in regarding the man who holds aloof from public life as useless. We decide and adopt all matters of policy, holding that as words and deeds go well together he that acts alone is foredoomed to failure.'

"As a business man, and as business men, let us take stock of what we have. The other speakers will tell you what we want; but the whole thing is the prosecution of this war until only a peace that will bring victory comes. We have got some of the best brains in the country at present at the head of affairs—Sir Robert Borden, for example. We have a lumber manufacturer who has been acting Premier. And lastly there is Mr. McCurdy, than whom there is no stronger or better type of business man in the whole of Canada. He does not advertise, but he has gone to the front to reorganize things there; and Col. A. D. McRae has acted with him. We have as Finance Minister one of the strongest men that ever filled the post. Faced with the most difficult task of financing the war, he has made a success of it both in England and the United States; and back of him is a committee of international bankers of the best class on the continent of North America. Then we have the Imperial Munitions Board, with two men on it whose names are known from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

"There ought to be men of strong independent character in charge of the country's affairs, surrounded by men of all political parties. That is what we want in the government. But we have already good assets in the men I have mentioned. We want more of them. The French have got to get supplies also, and they have used the organizing ability of the Hudson's Bay Company. Amongst some of this excellent material of which I speak there are some

weak ones. We want only outstanding men at the present time."

"Mr. G. H. Kidd, the next speaker, said: "With the first part of the resolution that has been read to you, emphatically endorsing the determination of the government and of every Canadian vigorously to prosecute the war in partnership with the Mother Country and her allies until victory is achieved, there will, I am sure, be no division of opinion; but as to the wisdom of forwarding a message to the Prime Minister recommending him to follow the example of Great Britain without appealing to the electors, to reorganize his administration without party entering into it, and to include in it men of recognized ability and standing, thereby at any rate implying that the present administration is defective in these qualities, is a suggestion which I think may give rise to doubt on the part of some of us. In the first place I think we ought to have ample evidence at our disposal as to the lack of administrative ability in the present government. I have no doubt that at times at Ottawa as elsewhere there have been grave mistakes and evidences of inefficiency in many directions, but whether the government we have warrants such a drastic change as that now suggested I for one cannot say that I am convinced.

"It should be remembered that the formation of a government composed of what are described as business men is not such an easy matter as some imagine. A business government, like any other government, must have behind it the support of the House of Commons and of the country as well. If the present state of things at Ottawa is so unsatisfactory as to necessitate a radical change, is the present Prime Minister the person whom we should ask to put our house in order?

"It is a fashion of the day to abuse politicians. From one end of the empire to another the politician is anathema. He is said to be the source of all our woes. I do not wish to defend the politician; his responsibilities are heavy, but I

would suggest that we elected him and that a nation gets as good government as it deserves; or, in other words, we, the electors, are responsible for our own troubles.

“This war has proved the truth that democracies are heavily handicapped when they come into conflict with autocracies; but this does not prove that autocracy is the better form of government. It only proves that during the progress of a war we must pay the penalty attaching to democracy. Why is a democracy so handicapped? I think the reason is that we have selected our rulers in time of peace carelessly, and then we have no confidence in them when the crisis comes. Even autocracies, however, have their troubles in war time. If one could obtain an insight into the real opinions of the Huns today might we not find some of them, if not, indeed, a large number of them, expressing doubt as to the ability of their governors?

“Reference has been made in the resolution to the example set by the Mother Country, but I doubt whether the circumstances in the Old Country are parallel to those prevailing in Canada. In the first place the Old Country, shortly after the outbreak of war, formed a coalition government. That coalition government carried on the war to the end of last year when, mainly as a result of the violent campaign of criticism, Mr. Asquith was deposed, and Mr. Lloyd George selected as his successor.

“In our case has any such strong feeling been shown, and has our Lloyd George appeared on the scene?

“While, therefore, I cannot support the resolution as at present worded, I would willingly support a resolution assuring the Minister—first, of this country’s determination to continue the fight side by side with the Mother Country and her allies until complete victory is achieved; second, of our anxiety to assist both him and his administration in their efforts towards that end, and of our readiness to submit to any call either upon our resources or our services which he may find it necessary to make; third, realizing as we do the difficulties attending any statesman governing a

democratic country during times of war, we wish fully to assure him of our whole-hearted support should he find it necessary in the interests of efficiency or despatch to depart from the customary parliamentary or party procedure for the purpose of securing the advice and assistance of the ablest and most expert administrators which this country can supply.' (Applause).

Mr. E. J. Leveson, the next speaker, said: "A national government, as I see it, is a government, made by the people and answerable to the people. To my mind it does not mean a temporary coalition of party politicians. The people mean the nation. Canada is a self-governing nation within the British Empire. For the first time the British Empire is governed by a so-called national ministry, and the trend of thought and feeling that has caused this evolution in public sentiment, which appears to have affected the British Isles, is prominent in our own minds today. The idea of a national government for Canada need not be confounded with that of a central Imperial Cabinet, or with organic union within the Empire. Rather it is concerned with a national ministry within the dominion. Canada is standing by France and Great Britain to win out against the Huns (applause). Today her people who have given their best are clamouring for something more—they are asking for some of her most efficient business men to come forward, and not only employ every weapon, and call up every man needed, but also to figure on getting the best results from the national machinery, from her latent wealth. The prevalent view is that Canada has been debauched with party politics, and by political patronage or by official parasites who have not any other occupation than politics. Politics is thereby prohibitive of genuine progress. I believe that the thinking Canadian people have now been led to realize that a drastic change in the organization of their government is essential for the efficient economical prosecution of the war.

"Let our representatives agree mutually to call upon

men of high character and sincerity from the ranks of the people to act as commissioners for the period of the war—men who are not connected with politics, and who for that very reason are more likely to work disinterestedly in driving the machinery of the business of the nation. Cannot this be done by acclamation in a convention without arousing petty personal jealousies or carping criticism?

“What is wanted is the arousing of a national spirit in the minds of men and women, to make them determined to devote some portion of their lives, of their life-work to do what they believe is for the good of the country. Let patronage be national patronage by the people. South Africa has done this and become united. She created a permanent civil service, with competitive examinations, and she is prosperous and contented in consequence. Gentlemen, if you go before the public today with efficiency as your watchword and the control of the best interests of the country by those best qualified, rather than by monopolist corporations or sections of individuals, the public will trust you, back you up and thank you.” (Applause).

Mr. W. H. Malkin said: “If we are to judge by the attendance here today, by the resolutions passed by the Winnipeg Club and by various Boards of Trade, the question of the nationalization of the government has seized upon the country in a very real way. Before proceeding to make any remarks as to a nationalized government in Canada I should like to refer to Great Britain. One of the great facts that will emerge when the history of this war is written by future historians will be that by a common danger the whole nation was knit together in a stern determination to accomplish one thing, and one thing only, the winning of the war (applause). The demand on the part of Great Britain was not a demand for a loose coalition of parties but rather a stern determination that there should be a truce to all party politics and to all conflicts and domestic strife. It was felt that the old political system inevitable in peace time was quite unsuited for war. And

the nation called for confidence and loyalty, efficiency and strength in place of political expediency and a vote-catching outlook. There have been two coalition governments since 1914. The first had hardly been a success. The second government, formed by Mr. Lloyd George recently, differed from the first in that he created an inner 'war council'; and in the second place he called to his assistance men of the best brains in the country, regardless of party, who had not hitherto had any Parliamentary experience. He created new offices. He called on Bonar Law, Balfour, Lord Derby and others to give him assistance. They heartily co-operated. When the government was completed it was thoroughly representative of every element in the nation. Labor co-operated heartily. If we are to have co-operation we must have labor (applause).

"A short time ago, at a meeting held in Manchester, a vote of six to one endorsed the action of the executive in helping Mr. Lloyd George. So determined was Lloyd George to have nothing to do with party politics that he took strong Conservatives to form the inner circle of the war cabinet and to control the destinies of the country. Britain was never so knit together; never so determined to win the war.

"That is what we need in Canada. As Sir Edmund Walker said, 'Every detail of our national life which aids or hinders our part in the great conflict is of paramount importance.' If the best brains and ability are not in the government today we should see to it that steps are taken to get them (applause). We want a government of business men—experts of broad outlook, uninfluenced by political affiliations, who will keep their eyes fixed on efficiency.

"We are asking ourselves today, at this Canadian Club luncheon, 'Can Canada do what Great Britain has done?' I believe that an emphatic Yes is the answer (applause). Everyone except the hide-bound politicians is in favor of such a move. It will create confidence throughout the country. A national government would appeal to the

industrialist, to the agriculturist, to the manufacturer and to the recruiting man with great force. It would arouse the country and put out of men's minds the idea of a general election, which seems so out of place at the present time when our brave men are dying on the battlefield.

"I believe that we can get a national government to be so effective, and so efficient, that when the war is over party lines would be to a large extent eliminated. We would get a better type of man—with all due deference to the men in office today—offering himself to the service of his country. Sir Robert Borden has said that the climax of the war is rapidly approaching. The last 100,000 men which Canada can put in the fighting line may be the outstanding factor in the struggle, the issue of which will determine the fate of this Dominion, of the empire, and of the whole world.

"Beyond urging the superiority of national training and conscription in general lines I hesitate to suggest that a national government should adopt conscription in preference to what had hitherto prevailed in Canada. We are 100,000 men short, nevertheless I think that the response of the young men of Canada has been wonderful. But this hundred thousand must be got. The establishment of a national government would be a strong stimulus to recruiting. When considering conscription we should remember that out of our population of seven and a half or eight millions we have no fewer than three millions who do not habitually speak the English language. But a national government can deal more effectively with this matter than it is being dealt with.

"I believe that we, the members of this Canadian club, can best prove ourselves worthy of this great opportunity by asking the government to carry out the idea expressed in the resolution which has been passed by various Canadian clubs in favor of securing men of capacity who will give their services to the state."

LIEUT.-COL. WILLIAMS

— ON —

“Equality of Service.”

(March 6th, 1917)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver on March 6, when Lieut.-Col. Williams, Assistant Director of Recruiting for Canada, addressed the members. Major W. F. Eaton, the Chief Commissioner for the Boy Scouts in Canada, was also a guest. Rev. W. H. Vance occupied the chair.

Lieut.-Col. Williams said in part: “Equality of Sacrifice; what is it? Why should one man do more than another? If Democracy is to live it must prove that it can answer to the acid test that is now being applied to it. The Germanic nations are entirely different from ourselves. The German General Staff maintain that their civilization is as much a part of their army machine as the leaders of it themselves are. And Mr. Lloyd George himself has said only a few weeks ago that it was white man’s power that alone would count in this struggle. From that standpoint many of us have been too ready to look at the British Empire, and say to ourselves that we have 400,000,000 of people, and that momentum alone will bring us victory. But when you come to analyze the white power, the white forces available, and compare those of the Germanic and British empires, you will find, and Mr. Lloyd George’s authority backs it up, that they exceed ours in strength. That is the power that will declare itself in this struggle.

“Science brings thoroughness. The Germans have been renowned for it. At the commencement of this struggle seventy millions moved as one. We on the other hand were quite incapable. However, we have been gathering strength, though we are not travelling yet at top speed.

We are still capable of even better things. In June, 1915, the same man—a Welshman, thank God, Lloyd George, is at the helm today—declared that had not the Germans turned and met the Russian offensive we should have been practically wiped out at that time. We had only one week's ammunition left for our guns. Had the Germans known of that, disaster in all probability would have overtaken the Homeland. Today with her ninety-five national factories in place of three, and with prospect of forty-six others, we are turning out every four days as much ammunition as we turned out in 1915. We are in this struggle, and we are going to win (applause). For this reason—all that we have, all that we are, and all that we hold is wrapped up in the issue. We must see to it, because we are the trustees—and as you know it is required of trustees that they be found faithful—of the British Empire. When I think of that glorious Canadian picture of the United Empire Loyalists coming from the other side of the line to remain under the British flag; when I have seen Canada from Halifax to Vancouver, and all that lies between, I have been filled with wonder and admiration as I have thought of the faith of those men who came here practically with an axe only in their hands to carve out in this land all they needed—a land that today flows with milk and honey.

“We are, as I have said, the trustees of the British Empire, of Canada. She is no longer a place merely for investments, but a proprietor herself—a part proprietor in the British Empire. I do not know that she is a junior proprietor either, for there are men living today who may see otherwise. Yet there are others who think that while they accept all the blessings of modern civilization they should not defend them nor fight for them, or take off their coats and enter the lists for these things. Why should they be proprietors? In the army—no, even in your businesses—what would you think of your partner, whenever a struggle had to be undertaken, who would hide himself

beneath the counter and say to the senior partner, 'It is your fight; when you have won I will carry on.'

"I ask you why should we not all bear the burden—an equitable burden? I am going to the fleet for my first example. The men in the North Sea are experts, all of them, at their business—and to illustrate that I may tell you that the fleet has three hundred men who, with a six-inch gun, ten shots a minute—not with a quick firer, mind you, a shot every six seconds, a hundred-lb. shot—there are three hundred men in the North Sea who, firing in that way, can hit a target two and a quarter miles distant travelling at a high rate of speed. The target is a hundred feet square, and every hit is a certain hit(applause). And what do we pay the men who can do such a thing as that? We pay these men a minimum rate of 46 cents a day, and increase it to 76 cents as a maximum. Forty-six cents a day! Knowing these things we ought all to say, 'By God's grace I shall know no such thing as politics; but we shall do our best to down that which is the greatest menace to our civilization.'

"We thought in the navy that it would be years before a naval seaman could be made. It may be from one point of view; but the men who are being recruited in the Dominion of Canada—you can see some of them on the streets of Vancouver—only the initiated eye could tell the difference between them and those experienced in the North Sea. Your sons from the farm lands and the stores can stand shoulder to shoulder with the men of Devon—and they are going to make good (applause).

"When you think that we have now almost 500,000 men in the expeditionary forces you must remember what a task it will be to bring those home again. If we had a total of 600,000 men, to bring these men home again, what would it mean? To bring them back at the rate of a thousand a day would take 600 days. We must all think in terms of tomorrow, and make up our minds as to what is to be done. Mr. R. B. Bennett said that the government of this

land must see to it that a job was found for every man when he comes back (applause).

“What is democracy? Democracy is that which gives to the individual the greatest amount of personal liberty consistent with the well-being of the community. But that does not mean license, gentlemen. It is not a military despotism like that of the Hohenzollerns. It is upon their soldiers that the modern edifice of Germany is erected. There is no genuine civil liberty in Germany—none whatever. There is no civil liberty in Germany whenever that liberty conflicts with military requirements.

“We are reaping the benefits accruing from this struggle, but we are not sacrificing what others are sacrificing. We must do what Kipling has said and pass the hat for our credit's sake and pay, pay, pay. We must do this if we are to retain our manhood. What a man adds to his banking account outside what is requisite and necessary for the proper carrying on of his business is not dollars and cents. It is blood; for everything that is coming to the Dominion of Canada from this war—all this prosperity has its root in the hell that is going on in Europe.

“As you look up the maps of the Empire, and think of the seas of blood that have painted them red, think also that we must all realize our obligations;; that we must become trustees to the full; that we must hand down unimpaired to posterity the land that has been won for us.

“There are two ways to do our duty. You and I cannot do it in the field—the only one who has done it there is the man who comes home wounded, and perhaps with a limb gone, or he who makes the supreme sacrifice. But we can do our duty by installments. We can pay. We must be white workers in a white war (applause). I am not going further into that—you know what I mean. There is an avenue open to all of you waiting for effort.

“For God's sake let us see to it, therefore, that we never let up until our conscience assures us that we have done our best and can stand clear at last at God's judgment bar. This mighty war that is now rocking the world

to its foundations, we discern in it something more than anarchy. We feel in it a divine law and the purposes of God towards his people—purposes that are unfathomable, but will come to their desired conclusion and to a mystic evolution. Soon the long night of death and destruction will give place to the new day.

“And as we take stock on the morrow of victory, which must be and shall be, we shall find that everything that is of real value to the human race will have been preserved, while everything that is not of value will have vanished. Our dead heroes will have won immortality; their mothers with unbowed heads will no longer weep for them; civilization will have a new vitality, and humanity will have entered on a richer, nobler heritage. Only the dross will perish. Belgium, under the feet of the devouring Hun, will find that right and freedom will be hers again; that she will, at the last, invincibly march to victory. Today the agony and the grief; tomorrow the resurrection. There is no room in Canada for pessimism. Where the pessimist sees only death and destruction, the man of faith and vision sees the glory of awakened life. The call comes to us clear and unmistakable. What can we do to make more effective our services?” (Applause).

PROFESSOR ADAM SHORTT

— ON —

“Economic Aspects of the War.”

(March 19th, 1917.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held at the Hotel Vancouver on March 19 to hear an address from Professor Adam Shortt of the Civil Service Commission in Ottawa. Rev. W. H. Vance occupied the chair.

Professor Shortt, who was well received, said: “My subject is one which no one can exhaust, which no one, I humbly think, can finally deal with. I ought not perhaps admit this, because you and I must get a solution somewhere. Now, I know we cannot get a solution anywhere at present; therefore it is indispensable that this topic should be a subject of continual discussion. It is to be solved only by walking about as the ancient authorities said, ‘Solvitur ambulando.’

“It is desirable of course that we should encourage optimism. Without optimism no person and no nation has been able to get anywhere. But optimism, to be economically employed, should not be squandered, should not be thrown away or allowed to lead us into illusions about objects that are impossible and that lead nowhere. Optimism must be sane, must be as far as possible well-informed, because when you are on the wrong track it is very doubtful policy to make up for your mistake by increasing the speed with which you are travelling. You want, instead, to get back to the right track and then go ahead. My object is to try to reduce, if I can, the region of the Unknown in order that the region that still must remain to be covered by others will be as limited as possible.

“You have all heard it said, and agree with it, that this war has changed almost everything. and some people believe that the changes will be greater after the war than during

the war. I am not so sure about that last point, but as to the changes that have taken place, the new points of view, the apparently impossible becoming the possible and the actual, there is no doubt. There are, therefore, certain things which still remain. The multiplication table is still fairly intact, and the old and fundamental adages such as 'You cannot have your cake and eat it,' or that, 'You cannot pull yourself up by your own boot-tops,' have not altered. These adages, I say, are in danger of being overthrown—in fact a good many people think they have been blown up by the war—or at least their advanced trenches have been taken by the enemy. Now, I would like to come forward, not as a defender of the multiplication table, but a defender of these adages. They mean what they say. You cannot have your cake and eat it, even in face of the economic changes brought on by the war; and you cannot, even in these days of the submarine and the aeroplane, lift yourself into the air by your boot-tops. As to the applications of these adages—the economic facts of the war are to be looked on from the elementary point of view first, and the more complex features examined afterwards; for it seems to me in my reading here and there, that a great deal is being taken for granted which does not require to be taken for granted. A great many half-truths have blossomed into whole lies, and they are all the more dangerous, therefore.

“The elements of production are land, labor and capital. In other words raw material, human effort and that mysterious outcome of the two—the fundamental known as capital. The first two in their elementary condition are easily understood. Nature and man—they have confronted each other from the beginning of time. All that has been worked out has been worked out by these forces in their inter-action, man trying to subdue nature to his wants and to the fulfilment of his wants. But this element of capital covers all the history of the economic world. Capital means all the difference between primitive savagery and the high and complex civilization we have today. Therefore capital

merits most attention. Now, the primary statement that capital is the result of saving has been attacked from many quarters.

“All the attacks, however, centre in the notion that saving is somehow a deprivation, a hardship in connection with the accumulation. Certainly if that is the idea it has to be got rid of, because an immense amount of saving is the reverse of a deprivation of anybody. Many people, when they reach a certain stage in the accumulation of wealth, find that it is easier to let wealth go on accumulating than to seek ways and means of spending it, or even investing it in ways that require careful consideration. I wish to use capital, therefore, as a factor in saving purely in the sense of wealth that is not destroyed, but that is applied to other uses either directly by the men in whose name it accumulates, or indirectly through the transfer of it to other people to be used, leaving the owner simply with the profit of a shareholder or the interest of a money-lender.

“These two factors, therefore, develop—product from one’s own activities and product from the activities of others from whom we are able to derive some advantage. Capital takes these two forms of return—interest and profit—interest where you have handed your product over to the other man and he takes the responsibility for administering it—profit where you hand it over to the other man, but where you yourself share with him the risks and chances. There gradually comes up a fund of wealth which is more than, and in addition to, the ordinary daily product of human labor. It is in connection with that and the growth of the community that all the complexities and the enormous mysterious net-work of bonds, shares, interest and paper money and obligations of all kinds have come—all of them. Now, in those complexities you soon get away from the ability actually to distinguish or trace your surplus in its wanderings up and down the economic world. When you have lent money to another man and given him a free hand he may lend it to someone else who may lend it to

someone else—an infinite series of lendings and you know nothing about it except that you lent the money to that man and had faith in him; or, as faith fails from time to time, you insisted on having security from him. It is at first a friendly favor; a little later it is a bond, and two things then happen. Not only can he manipulate the material wealth you have handed over to him, but you in your turn can manipulate the security you take from him and hand it to someone else when it is not convenient to get what you lent back from the man you lent it to. Moreover—and this soon develops—the goods you lent him are not the goods which you get back but some other goods. And when you get to that point you get paper securities.

“We start with the actual ownership of goods, but we come down to the ownership of securities. We do not know land any more; we know only deeds. We own mortgages, we own agreements of sale and various other forms of paper which grow out of land dealings. We no longer buy and sell grain; nobody buys grain on the Winnipeg Exchange; they buy and sell paper, and that fact was very strongly brought out when the government, you remember, commandeered the grain at the head of the lakes. Then people realized for the first time that we are not buying and selling grain, but paper. So this thing goes on getting more and more into the region of paper, and the higher it gets into that region and the further afield the paper reaches, then you get the whole world ultimately bound up in this paper—in these paper transactions, and but slightly involved in the actual goods. Now, it is by these paper transactions that a fund of immense wealth is secured, and thus we come to confuse wealth, as capital, with paper. Yet it is perfectly true that all this paper, when analysed to the bottom, must come back to some actual wealth somewhere or other—else it vanishes. Now, it is when it is brought to the touch-stone alone that that is discovered. Up to that time your faith in it is sufficient to keep it going. The bank-notes of a bank continue to circulate and do as

good work, even if for a year back all the assets of the bank have vanished—provided, of course, that the fact does not become known publicly. It is publicity—the shaking of confidence and faith—that results in the collapse of a financial institution. Therefore a bank-note passing from hand to hand will do just as good business, even if there is nothing behind it—until you come to ask for the security in its last expression.

“That you see now gets us to the region of speculation. Now there is another element that comes in here that has to be followed closely, and that is dealing in futures. That has a stock-market significance, but the term has a far wider significance in actual life. To get back to a primitive example. When a man furnishes another man with fish because he has a surplus of it the other man may be, let us say, an expert trapper of fur animals. In the winter the man who has got the fish lends it to the other on the basis that the latter will return furs in the winter. That man is dealing in futures at once. He believes that the other man will be able to return him the furs in the winter, and until he does so he takes the risk. The man for instance may die, he may be crippled, there may be a bad hunting season that winter, and so he finds he has lost his fish, the fish he might have employed elsewhere. He is a dealer in futures, a speculator. And speculation is fundamental in the economic life of man, as in the struggle of labor and raw material. Speculation comes from the accumulating instinct which exists in all human beings, and belongs to a good many of the higher animals. We will not stop here to trace its workings; the human animal is quite sufficient for the case in hand. Speculation, however, may be of two kinds—just as there may be two kind of bronchos on the prairies, an untamed broncho, whom no one has laid hands on, and whom nobody has been able to saddle, and the broncho that has been tamed and brought into harness, the saddle and all that. These two bronchos, let us say, are running on the prairie. They seem to be much the same, but on

harnessing them you find a great difference. You can harness the one but the other you cannot. The gambling spirit, when trained to run in harness, is business enterprise: the capacity to deal in futures intelligently. The wild broncho is the chap who is anxious to make a lot of money but does not quite know how to do it. He is, therefore, running at large, running wild both with his own money and that of anybody else's he can get his hands on. This speculative factor enters into all the mysteries of capital, and finds itself a sphere of activity in building up these paper securities, obligations, transfers and all that. There runs with it a certain capacity in certain individuals to persuade others to a greater extent than other people not so gifted can do (laughter). They can appeal to the speculative instinct.

“If you take the statistics of Canada during the eight or ten years before this war and look at the growing increase of imports over exports you will find that, within a few thousand dollars, the difference between the imports and the exports was met almost exactly by the borrowings made abroad. That is what filled the gap. Why did the gap open so rapidly, and why does it correspond with the borrowings? For two reasons. When you are building a great railroad you are not only furnishing the means of purchasing the equipment for the road but for all parties engaged on the work. You thereby cause a drain on the material resources of your country and also on the goods of your country—its flour, its pork, its butter, its vegetables, etc. The army of men must be fed; the army that is engaged in building the railroad. What does this mean? It means that while they are building that railroad those men are not producing one rap. You have a great enterprise on foot, lots of immigrants coming into the country, but all they are doing is increasing the consumption in the country of goods produced in the country. They stop the export of these goods also, and you find that during the boom Canada was producing more eggs, more butter, more

pork and all sorts of things than before. But this export ceased during that time, because the consumption in the country required those things for use here rather than they should be sent abroad. That was what was happening when you were building your railroads and investing your capital. Secondly, some people do not make any distinction between buying things in a country and buying things outside of it. They buy tea and bacon, sugar and butter, fruit and dry goods produced abroad just the same as things produced at home; so that they swell the imports as well as cut down the exports and condition corresponding exactly to the ability to pay for these things. That ability seems to exist on paper perhaps, but it comes back to the actual goods in the end.

“Therefore, and this is the point I wish to emphasize, actual investment during the period of investment leads to the consumption of immense amounts of goods, and for the time being no replacement of them. Then the question comes when this railroad you are going to build to your town or city—whether, when it is complete, it will begin to reproduce what it has consumed. If it does, and reproduces it with a profit, with, in other words, an increase of production, then it is profitable, but if it does not then it is a loss. If it produces nothing at all then it is a bad loss, and you must make up that loss somehow, because you have pledged your own property or the property of the country and its future to those persons who have loaned you the money to go on with the enterprise. So here is the point at last. The war is just such an investment of wealth. It is a dead loss. Its whole object is destruction, the destruction of life—preferably the life of the enemy of course, but naturally the lives of our own people as well—and the destruction of property, such as the blowing up of ships, the shelling of trenches, and the labor that goes to the making of these trenches that might have produced wealth. These trenches have got to be filled in again. War, therefore, is the destruction of wealth, and that is its main object.

Now here is my point. In the expending of the money raised for war, just as in the expending of the money raised for your railroad, you can, and you do, give employment to labor; you borrow capital; you give immense opportunities for profits; and you can have millionaires made by the one method as well as by the other. Because, as I say again, while the funds are being expended there is no difference between the productive and unproductive results. That counts only at the end. The question of war is a question of necessity. Fortunately in this great struggle nobody needs to argue that point (applause). There is nobody in this audience—least of all myself—to have a word to say against this war (applause). On the contrary the more we devote ourselves to it with our personnel and with our savings, the sooner we shall come to the end of the destruction that is being wrought. By dragging out we would lose more than by hastening its end. We must down a situation which not merely threatens the destruction of part of our wealth, but, if we do not put it down, the destruction of the whole of it. It is merely a question of sacrificing a certain part of it in order to save the rest—a sound principle when you are driven to it in any case. We have, therefore, to face the actual situation. We have to realize what we are doing in this country, that we are drawing on our actual capital, and that our borrowings must be met in the future out of our capital. Fortunate it is for the country that is able to meet a just proportion of the drain at the time. It is in that way that our great Mother Country is ahead of us all. Britain divides herself into two great parties in her history. One the party of feudalism up to the reign of Charles I., and the other the party of democracy, which refuses militarism. From that time up to the present Britain has never been prepared in a military way; she has not known preparedness and it was a poor country to give in up to the Tudors at any rate. Slaughter at home, slaughter abroad, and nothing to show for it. That was the usual result. Struggling along the people said,

‘We will not stand this any longer.’ And thus it came to an end as regards the army, though curiously enough, as regards the navy, from the beginning to the end no one said anything against the navy. It is always found that the British navy is not in politics (applause). That is because it does not hamper democracy and required a high grade, thoroughly trained people to attend to their business. But the army, on the other hand, has always been in politics, and in every country the army is and necessarily must be in politics. That is what the British did. They devoted their attention to the development of wealth and capital, and they never, from that time on—they never in all their wars and struggles—they never were prepared. Yet they never lost. Britain devoted her energies to building up her economic strength and converting that into military strength, winning every time, and at the same time developing her marvellous colonial empire which she learned to treat in democratic fashion, and thus saved it when the other nations lost theirs. It is because they have Britain that the Allies are in the enormously advantageous position they are today. It is for that reason they are going to win this war (applause). You have there a country with an immense accumulation of capital, all the machinery there that I have indicated, an immense aggregation of paper, of securities representing solid wealth in all corners of the earth, and that is what is being drawn on at the present time and is the determining factor in bolstering up not only Britain but her allies. Where would France be without Britain? Where Russia? Russia would never be able to come back. Italy would be nowhere. Britain and her wealth is the key to the whole situation. But that does not ignore this, that Britain is sacrificing her accumulated wealth, and with it her financial control of the world. She is spending billions, and that enormous sacrifice that is needed to save the remainder, and to save her honor. The latter alone is sufficient to justify it. But it is no use for an ostrich-headed optimist to say that when the war is

over Britain will be as strong as ever. It is not sensible for us to say it. It is nonsense. Such optimism as that would lead to our destruction. We are making sacrifices, and we should intelligently continue to make these sacrifices. We should understand that what we have accumulated we are throwing to the winds. Despite the actual fortunes that are being made between the pockets of the taxpayer or the pocket of the investor in turning out the machinery and equipment needed at the front, that is true. We know that in an article costing ten dollars to place at the front, it costs five dollars which sticks to somebody in between. People say that after the war we shall have state ownership of many things that we shall abolish all profit-takers. But look at it and you will see. I have to do with the civil service, and that means that everybody in the state will be a civil servant. But they do not come under my control if I can help it (laughter). After experience and observation of what government management is, one can say that if five dollars out of ten is lost between the private contractor and the front, at least \$7.00 or \$7.50 would be lost by the government process (laughter), and we would have more idlers living at the public trough (laughter).

“We have to face the evils as we find them. You may ask what is the remedy? The remedy is simple. In view of the circumstance that we are losing our accumulated wealth, another accumulation of wealth must replace that loss, and in order to do that we cannot take the easy way of building up so much paper securities or obligations in the future. We must get down to filling up the gap with actual goods. And so I come back to what is on everybody’s tongue, that what is wanted is that everybody in Canada should get down to production. For it is only out of our surplus products that our loss of capital can be made good or any capital advanced again.

“Finally there is the question of wages of labor. Wages are a question of how much it takes to live on? That is the simple fact. It does not matter two pence to labor whether

it is getting five dollars a day and spends five dollars a day to live, or is getting two dollars a day and can live on that in the same way. But it makes all the difference as regards your relations outside. You take to developing your resources here with a view of selling goods abroad. You cannot do it, and you know you cannot if you only look at it. If you have got your wage scale on a five dollar a day basis you must get it to the basis on which you can sell abroad, and get in return for your goods what it costs to produce those goods in the country. But you cannot expect the laborer to take two dollars a day and live at the rate of five dollars. You must get the labor to the point where it can get enough to live on at two dollars a day, and that can be done by producing in your own country the food, and housing, and the land to work. Unless labor is at reasonable rates you cannot build up any great industries in Canada and it cannot be while you are importing food supplies and expect the workmen to pay those prices for them. Elementary production, food, houses must all be provided, otherwise you cannot sustain your labor conditions. I think I have demonstrated that it all comes back to the same thing, that you cannot have your cake and eat it, and you cannot lift yourself by your own boot heels."

HON. G. P. GRAHAM

— ON —

“Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.”

(March 22nd, 1917.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver on March 22, when the guest of honor was Hon. G. P. Graham, ex-Minister of Railways for Canada. Rev. W. H. Vance, the president of the club, occupied the chair. At the outset of the speeches a silent toast was drunk to the memory of the late Chief of Police, Malcolm MacLennan, shot by a desperado a day or two previously.

Mr. Graham, whose subject was “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” said: “Mr. President and gentlemen, the president has referred to the title of my few remarks as ‘Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow’. I may as well admit at once that I have only one subject, but that I always change the title of it (laughter). To my mind we do not discuss publicly nor talk privately about our own Canada as much as we might with profit. Go to other countries and you will find the text-books and the teaching in the schools primarily devoted to their own institutions and to their own history. Up until a few years ago the history of Canada was not taught in the schools of this country to the extent to which it ought to have been taught. When those of us who are older were started on our careers in life we knew more about the history of any other country almost than about our own. We knew also the geography of other countries better also.

“I found then that the subject of Canadian history was neglected, and to put it to the test I one day asked the pupils in a certain school to give me the capitals of every country in Europe. They did so, but could not give me that of Canada. They actually did not know the name of that. Now, sir, the history of Canada is something of which

we may well be proud—a history of sacrifice and achievement, and it is mightily being added to today with its sacrifice and achievement (applause.) Let me run rapidly over some of the chief events in Canadian history. It will serve as a background for what I have to say to you. It is this: that no live people can be successfully governed at long range. The wonderful success of Great Britain's history as a colonizing force has been due to the fact that she gave to all those countries attached to her at a distance practically full power and control over their own affairs(applause). Prior to 1763 France had governed Canada at long range and made practically not progress at all. When this country became part of the British Empire in 1763 the long range government still continued with some modifications. But a few years later what is known as the Constitution Act did give to the people of Canada more freedom as to the management of their own affairs; consequently a development unknown before began to be appreciated and discerned on this side of the Atlantic. In 1776 a portion of the British Empire—what is now the United States—separated. We have gone many generations ahead since that time and would not take kindly to any interference with the management of our own local affairs. In 1791 Canada was divided into Upper and Lower Canada, and each given a form of government. I remember reading of the first Parliament that assembled in Upper Canada. The government was summoned at the city of Kingston, not far from where you come, Mr. President, and the legislature met at what is now Niagara without that pomp and ceremony which I think we might sometimes well dispense with in this country. There was an address and speech from the throne. In that speech it was announced that several of the members could not attend that session of the legislature as they were at home busy making hay. In 1812 we had some little differences with our friends to the south. The Motherland, with all her traditions of strength and courage, was assisted by young Canada, who took her part nobly in the struggle.

Let me say this to the young men who may hear me—that a thousand times better had we lost in 1812 than that we should lose in 1917 (applause). In 1812, had the enemy been successful at the worst we should have been under another form of democratic government, which has its advantages, but were we defeated today we should be bereft of all the privileges we enjoy; our lives would be reversed; our government turned back; and instead of being a proud people, proud of our own country, we should be a subject people serving the heads of Germany. Sir, it is unthinkable, but it is just as well that we stop and consider what might be should we be wanting in this year 1917. But I have every confidence that the young men of Canada will prove worthy of their sires of 1812, and that in this great struggle the day is not far distant when liberty will triumph. All that we have that is best worth having will come out victorious, and when that comes to pass we shall have a future which the young men of Canada can look forward to with hope and pride. But they cannot look forward to it with hope and pride unless they have the consciousness that they individually have done their duty (applause). Through all these times we are progressing, not rapidly it is true, but making progress. We now come to a period in the history of Canada — 1837. What happened at that time was called rebellion, but I am not sure how it would be today so regarded in the light of what has happened since. Whatever we may think of the uprising in Quebec—Lower Canada and Upper Canada—this much has resulted, sir, that the people of every part of the Dominion of Canada today enjoy the blessings of responsible government, the right to manage their own affairs, which they would not have enjoyed had we not the enlarged responsibility put upon us, and the beginning of that responsibility coming to us was the trouble of 1837 (applause). I may say this, that from 1837, however we may view that occurrence, we began in the Dominion of Canada to gradually feel our enlargement of power to

manage our own business. From that date onward we all enjoyed the right to collect our own taxes, and not only that but to expend them. Some of you may think in the latter respect we may have exercised that right too fully, but if we have done so you are to blame. Whatever wrongs there may be in governments if you follow them down to their last analysis you will find that that wrong is really in the people themselves. And if you blame us in public life for deeds of commission or omission, remember that you are the men who put us in public life,, and you can put us out when you have the courage to do so. Gradually the exercise of the right to manage our own affairs was increased and developed, and you will find, sir, that, as this right of governing ourselves was extended, the devotion of the people of Canada to the source of that right, the Motherland, became intensified rather than decreased. We, the people of Canada, year after year developed a warmer devotion to the Motherland, who had treated us as sons and not as neighbors (applause). At that time there were many men in the Motherland—and some in Canada, too—who thought that to extend any further responsibility to us would be the beginning of the end so far as the connection with the Motherland is concerned, but the history of Canada has shown us that the opposite has been the case, until we find ourselves, in the year 1917, more devoted to the Motherland than we ever were before, and bound to her by ties that never before existed between us (applause).

“In 1841 the Canadas were again united. Our powers were enlarged in reference to collecting taxes, in reference to the methods of distribution, and as to how the money should be divided between the various provinces ,together with certain other legislation regarding Church and State. Then I come down to 1866. I may say that the first money that I made was after 1866, in selling the history of the Fenian raid, a well known book at that time. It was a small red book, but it was big enough for the Raid (laughter). The only result of that raid was to show those who thought other-

wise that we still had in Canada men of red blood who would not be trampled upon. And the marauders who came over went back again; though some are with us still (laughter). In 1867 came perhaps the greatest epoch-making period in the history of the Dominion. It was a period fraught with a good deal of interest to the world, to the British Empire, and particularly to us in Canada. We are realizing more and more as the years go by the wisdom exhibited by such men as Macdonald, Browne and Tupper (applause) in the working out of Confederation. Now we must remember that in bringing about Confederation a compromise was exercised, and conforming with the Constitutional Act of 1791, and the treaty of 1763, certain concessions were given to certain provinces in that act of Confederation which cannot be overridden, unless we take our places side by side with the Hun who says that a contract is merely a scrap of paper. So it was a matter of compromise, and we discover the foresight of these men, which was even more keen and acute than we gave them credit for at the time. In 1867 Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Upper and Lower Canada became the Dominion of Canada. All these provinces were not anxious to come in. There was a strong feeling in the Maritime Provinces that their interests lay more in other directions, and that in a business way they might not benefit. But with certain concessions given, the way it has worked out it has been undoubtedly a benefit to all the British possessions on this side of the Atlantic and an object lesson to the world. Because, as I said before, as we became consolidated our right to manage our own affairs became more and more widened, and the Motherland presents today as a result to the world and to her enemies a united empire which reaches round the world (applause).

“In 1870 Manitoba became part of the Dominion through various vicissitudes and some rebellion. In 1873 Prince Edward Island came in, and then that part of Canada which seems to you to be the greatest of all, British Columbia. In 1905 Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed

into provinces, and in 1912 what remained of the loose territory scattered around was taken in by Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. There were difficulties in the arrangement of this territory—education and all kinds of things—but these were happily settled or bridged over, and today we are, in the year 1917, a united Canada. One cannot discuss the present, even for a moment, without talking of the great struggle in which we are engaged. Sometimes we are apt to pride ourselves on the early enlistment of our young men, but it is only just to say—and being a Canadian-born I can say it—that the vast majority who joined the First Contingent were young men born in the Motherland. They came from families who had known what it was to be in war, to breathe the atmosphere of battle. They had perhaps been in the Territorials at home, and when these young men answered the call of honor they, as British-born, then and now citizens of Canada, came to the rescue the moment they heard the call (applause). The young men of Canada had not been trained along these lines. We had no thought of war as a serious practical thing. Our young men had not been educated to it, and they did not realize they should be called upon to serve their country in the militia. But when the alarm did come; when week after week and month after month the war went on, then they began to understand. I belong to that school which says that the young men of Canada, aye and the old men and the women of Canada have done and are doing magnificently their part (applause). But we must do more (applause). We must not stand down, though what has been done is certainly beyond the expectations of men in public life at the beginning of the war. When the history of these events comes to be written so far as the people of Canada are concerned I believe that the brightest page will be given to the women of our own land (applause). We men have made sacrifices but the heart-burning and heart-rending sacrifices have been those made by the women of Canada. All honor to them, for to them more than to any other is due the fact that

Canada is taking her place in this war as she is. There is one school in Canada that says we should only fight for Canada in Canada; that we are not bound by any law to go outside our own country to fight the wars of Great Britain. Let me say I have no sympathy directly or indirectly with that school of thought (loud applause). It is not in the interests of the empire, it is not in the interests of the Dominion of Canada, nor of the men who make that confession. A few years ago we were in a different position in regard to the empire, but today, Mr. President, owing to the gradual development of our responsibilities, we take our place in the Imperial conference with the leading man from the Motherland and with the statesmen from the Overseas Dominions. We are not now considered merely a part of the British Empire, a property where a paying investment might be made. We are today acknowledged as not only a part of the British Empire but a part proprietor, and no mean proprietor at that. From that standpoint we have the right to stand by the Motherland in all her troubles. But even take the most selfish ground—those who present that argument to us do not think seriously. They are speaking rather artificially of latitude and longitude and their restrictions. But there is something wider and broader than that. That will convince any person that we, being brothers of our kin across the sea, and more, that we being in our own land the enjoyers of all the liberties the freest people in the world may have, we would be less than men if we were not prepared to fight for those liberties. We are not fighting for the Motherland—let us put that on one side—we are fighting as much for the defence of Canada and for the defence of our homes just as much as if the battle were taking place at the outskirts of the city of Vancouver (applause).

“I will go even further and say that we in Canada pride ourselves that we have perhaps the best system and form of government in the world. We did not get this great system of democratic government in that struggle

of 1812, but in 1760, 1837, and down through the years of British history the development of freedom was fought for and obtained. Even if any part of the British Empire had become an independent nation it would have been less than grateful, less than human if we were not fighting for the liberties that our fathers got for us (applause).

“But ‘Tomorrow;’ what about tomorrow? Briefly I do not know; but this much I can say, Mr. President, that if we do not make the present secure there will be no tomorrow for us (applause). Our sworn duty is now to see that the struggle in which we are engaged is brought to a victorious conclusion. If we neglect that we neglect everything. The preparations in which we have been engaged for the last four years are now about to come to their fruition. I believe that the Allies will triumph gloriously (applause). In Russia the people have found themselves and they have come to the conclusion that forever they are going to govern their own destinies. Once that spirit enters the minds of the people the rest is easy. That spirit to a certain extent entered the minds of the German people many years ago, but Bismarck crushed it out. Had not that been the case there might have been no war in Europe because Germany would have been enjoying a democratic form of government. Then, knowing this, let us not all live in a fool’s paradise. We have ourselves great problems to solve—problems of immense magnitude. Let us not worry too much about reorganizing the empire until we see, until we are sure we are going to keep it. No one ever intends to separate from the Motherland; but we want to work out our own destiny of the empire; but with the fullest right to manage our own affairs. We cannot recede one inch in our right to manage our own affairs. If we do we are turning back the history of Canada at least one hundred years. Let me just give you one inkling of what I mean. You have in British Columbia some problems all your own. You yourselves know what they are—problems particularly applicable to the Pacific Coast and not to the rest of Canada.

Now some of you have told me that British Columbia's voice is sometimes not heard at Ottawa because it is so far away, and I have heard complaints against not this government but the one that preceded it—the good government (laughter). Well, suppose that something particularly applicable to British Columbia were to be discussed, not at Ottawa but by some other body much further away—do you think you would like having it discussed by representatives from the four corners of the British Empire. Would that be better than if it were confined to the Dominion of Canada where the men are responsible to you? We have now the right to make out our own treaties although the Motherland becomes a party. She acquiesces in all our treaty making. The best thing we can do in regard to our domestic affairs is to retain the right to manage them ourselves and all Canada will agree with that.

“The future has many problems. When this war is over, with pensions and annual interest payments we shall have to expend as much money as will be equal to the expenditure for ordinary government two years ago. This amount will be four times as much as the annual income of Canada in 1896. We must face things. We can face them. The sons of the fathers who came into this new land and hewed out homes for themselves many years ago are, I believe, equal to the task (applause) of grappling with these responsibilities. But naturally we must go steadily and see that we are facing in the right direction to accomplish the task. One problem will be to bring to this country for the cultivation of its soil, for the production of wealth from its natural resources, the best kind of people we can get anywhere in the world, and make them contented, and also make them the most successful immigrants that can be secured anywhere. The task is before whatever government is in power, and whatever the thought of the people may be, we in Canada, with our sterling men from different parts of the world, will be able to grasp these problems (applause); place our hand on our natural resources and turn

them into real living wealth, so that when the guns rage no more, and the din of battle is no longer heard, we may be able to look back as men and women who have performed their duty in time of war and with a conscience clear of offence, face the problems of the future, the problems of peace and of rehabilitation" (loud applause).

HON. ARTHUR MEIGHEN

— ON —

“War’s Inspiration.”

(March 30th, 1917.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver on March 30, when Hon. Arthur Meighen, the Solicitor-General for Canada, was the guest of honor. In the chair was the president of the club, Rev. Principal Vance.

Mr. Meighen, who was received with loud applause, said: “We are coming now to the close of the third year of the war. The courage, strength and fidelity of these young nations have been put to a very severe test, and as the months go by their powers of endurance are summoned to a most crucial trial. It is a matter whether we or the other side are best able to stand the strain. I think perhaps in that connection I may be able to say something that will help us to do our share and to turn our eyes to what we have to do in this last great test of all, this test of our British pluck. The carrying on of a great war under democracy is, as Lord Northcliffe said in a recent message to America, a new experiment in the world. It is an experiment fraught with tremendous difficulties and perils but if democracy survives there never can be any real bar to its enthronement in this world. I know that there is much that occurs, and much that there is very hard to understand in the decisions that must be made day by day. Many of them inevitably are wrong. All the controlling facts that govern our decisions cannot in the nature of things be known. As a matter of fact it is too often the case that the controlling facts are those that are not inquired into. It would seem that every section and every extremity of this broad dominion cannot take into consideration the viewpoint of other sections or consider all that must be considered by those charged with the responsibility. I know how viewpoints differ. I know

also under the voluntary system there are inequalities of sacrifice, there are many instances of unfairness, and even of injustice. I know that, as the burden becomes heavier in the families of the brave, and the death roll becomes longer, and the suffering more intense, there are sure to be impatience and resentment that the unworthy are allowed to escape. Misunderstandings must occur, misapprehensions must occur and be tolerated. If we are not in earnest about the war, and ready to press it through, but, instead, to make it a mere show we do it at our peril. We cannot flinch from the task before us. But what this country is able to do must be considered as subject to certain limitations, certain commanding and dominating limitations, and it is also a fact that the nature and strength of these limitations cannot be known and cannot be equally understood by every section of our people. Those who are the most aggressive and the most critical cannot see the full force of the limitations which appear to us who control the situation to dominate our Continent. What are these facts that we are bound to look in the face, and to take the measure of with such care? One of them is our tremendous geographical extent relative of our population. Another and of vastly greater consequence is our geographical position bordering the north of this great continent with a boundary of 3,600 miles. Of course it is possible to overestimate the importance of everything, but it is very difficult to overestimate the importance and force of the limitations imposed upon us by stern actual conditions. It enters into every problem that confronts us, and it enters into the problem with an importance that will only be adequately estimated and known long after the war has passed. It affects our financial dispositions, it affects our commercial dispositions, it affects our ability to control and dispose of our products in the interests of our people, of our own people, of our Empire and of our Allies. It affects still more, and still more, our enlistment and military law. The possibilities of our military law while the voluntary system continues—the restraint it imposes on our military

strength is very great indeed. What a country may be able to do when it is an island of homogeneous population may be one thing, but what a country heterogeneous in population and separated by over half a continent, and next to a neutral state of over eighty millions of people, may be able to do is quite another. The importance of that consideration, as I said a moment ago, will be appreciated long after this war has passed into history. But the great truth we must keep before us is this, that a body of public sentiment must first exist and be expressed behind any movement looking to compulsory personal service, and it must be vastly greater and more general than would be necessary in such a country as I have just alluded to. These are some of the considerations which we must keep in mind. We must also remember that this is a real democracy, and without sufficient public sentiment behind it it cannot advance a principle that may be quite sound and quite desirable of application, but which, if enforced, might land us further back than when we started. The inequalities and the irritation that they engender remain, but what we have to do is this: we want to keep our people together and to maintain harmony amongst our population. We must avoid errors whatever the temptation; we must lay our hands on every resource at our hand and keep an eye on the whole (applause). This country has this tremendous advantage in sustaining the spirit of its people throughout this struggle: that we can look to the greatest example ever presented of sacrifice of national devotion and of national achievement, and my purpose is to endeavor to picture to this audience of my countrymen Great Britain as she appeared to me as she stands revealed by this war; and if I can succeed in drawing the lines that tell of the greatness of the worth of Britain before such a number of her children as are here before me, I shall have done something worthy of the time I take (applause). Since she has emerged to nationhood she has never borne so big a share of the world's burden, she has never stood with such majesty and grace and never looked so

beautiful as in the lurid light of this great war (applause). I say that not in a spirit of boasting—we have not reached that stage yet where we can look upon our task as done. The only sane assumption that we can make is that we are in the middle of it, and that what remains to be done is at least the measure of our strength (applause). I say it only because the Old Land deserves it, because she has shown a devotion to her subjects in every hemisphere of the globe, and because she needs that devotion now, and because her words are just (applause).

“It is scarcely honest to reflect on the achievements of our own countrymen until we first pay a tribute to those people who up to now have borne the greater share of the suffering. We reflect with gratitude, with pride—and none have more reason for gratitude than we in Canada—on the martial valor and infinite endurance shown by our great ally, France (loud applause). Our hearts and hands go out to her—our arms, too, because hearts without arms in true danger are but a mockery—our arms go out to her and to Belgium in her agony, and the hand of fellowship also goes out to Russia whose fidelity in 32 months of war has stood every crucial test. They go out to suffering Serbia, to whom the hand of British fellowship has gone out as never before (applause). To these countries in this, the midnight of their sufferings, we say, ‘Britain is and always will be true.’ They know it, every one of them. They have watched her in the years that preceded the outbreak of the war. They have watched her walk straight and fair in the diplomacy of Europe. She has been true to France at Loos and St. Eloi, at Festubert and on a hundred other fields. She has been true to Russia in ill-fated Gallipoli and to Belgium at Antwerp. And today her arms on the sands of Mesopotamia attest her fidelity to her eastern ally. Great Britain has, from the commencement, been the bond that has held the Allies together (applause.) They place infinite trust in the good faith of Britain and that trust her people will never forfeit; that trust her statesmen will always be

worthy of, and that trust her soldiers and sailors will vindicate, and are vindicating now. Criticism of all kinds is a habit of the Englishman—and indeed of the Canadian, too. We have been so long accustomed to it—it is the very birth-right of democracy—and it is well that it should be—but I find that it prevents us—the critic and the newspapers combined—they prevent the getting down and listening to the clear bright manly heart that beats for the Empire, that has kept Britain right in the big things of life, that has never known fear before the uplifted sword, that has never refrained from protecting her subjects no matter where they were or in what corner of the globe; in South America, in Mesopotamia or anywhere else. She has poured out her blood without limit and her treasure without bond, scattered the bones of her sons in every quarter of the world so that all may know what it is to be a British subject (applause). That is the country to which you and I belong. In every crisis she has chosen her course under the law, and that course has been mainly right—sometimes an error, but mainly right and always strong, always manly and taken without trace of fear. (Applause). The offense she has measured, and sometimes hastily and with pride, but never measured the whole of it. When she fought France in the early part of the last century she fought the conqueror of Europe grown to lusty manhood, and when she confronted Phillip, Spain was at the summit of her power. During the long decades of her fight with Napoleon, she never measured her foe. Britain has been friends for 550 years with Portugal and never gone back from her treaty, or never given the little monarchy a chance to say that Britain had failed in what she undertook in 1373 (applause).

“Seventy years ago she fixed her seal to a document that bound her might and fair fame to the integrity and independence of Belgium in order, as Disraeli said, the historic battleground of Europe should be consecrated to the purposes of peace, should be a buffer-state between the adjoining powers, and now she battles in death-grips with a

huge military colossus pouring out her best blood and daring in peril of death to make good her bond that free nations may not perish from the earth (applause). I have watched my country in that struggle and I am proud to be a child of that country. I watched the hand of her diplomacy before the outbreak of war—wisdom and honor in every line of it; and when at last the hour came when the great issue was to be faced she sat up and faced it. The heart of Britain is sound. When the call came her voice rang clear, not a moment of doubt, and there never will be a wavering or a tremor when the heart is sound. She will go down to defeat before the sword of Germany becomes lord.

“We hear much of German efficiency. The German military arm is efficient. It has proved itself efficient in this war. It has been the pride and boast of the Teutons for the last 45 years. It has stood the test, but it has not accomplished a fraction of what it was designed to accomplish, and what it has achieved it has achieved in shame and cruelty and in dishonor (hear, hear). But Britain has shown some efficiency, too. She also had an organization designed for a clear purpose. That organization was the Grand Fleet (applause). That purpose was the defence of the Empire by sea. Great Britain’s organization has achieved its purpose thoroughly and with efficiency altogether passing the efficiency of Germany (applause). When the war broke out every living son of Britain’s millions knew that the Grand Fleet, and that alone, stood between her and them and annihilation. The submarine has come the torpedo, the mine, the aeroplane. Armageddon itself is here, but not an enemy has set foot on Britain’s soil, and her boundaries and people are as safe today as they have ever been since Trafalgar (applause). The Grand Fleet still does its work; not an enemy ship crosses the sea. Some go under the sea it is true, but the submarine has well nigh met its master. The enemy cannot set foot beyond his coasts on the water. He cannot trade. He is a commercial as well as

a moral outcast. On the other hand trade abounds with us. All our shores are safe. The vital needs of our land are supplied, and Britain has been at war for 32 months. in the forefront of the war, too. and yet she is mightier than ever she was before the war began (applause).

“ ‘It is the British fleet,’ said the French Minister of Finance, ‘that has saved civilization from the barbarism of the twentieth century.’ (Applause). Thirty-two months ago the British army was thrown into the conflict amongst the legions of Europe. Great Britain had no designs of aggression, because if she had had such designs she would have had a weapon adequate to such designs. Her strong arm was her fleet. It is a weapon of defense alone. The war drum sounded in Europe. Then Britain arose, the child, the shepherd with his sling and stone who is now one of the Kings of Israel (applause). Now between four and five million men have sprung to arms out of patriotism alone. and under no compulsion except a hatred of injustice and a love of liberty, and that while the enemy was still in a foreign land. There has been nothing seen like it under the sun. Added to that there are the hundred thousands more that man the reserves in the navy, and the thousands more in munition works, and you have only a mere fraction left of the male population out of the 44,000,000. To that small fraction Great Britain had the courage to apply compulsion. Britain threw aside her preconceptions and after having, under the voluntary system, drained her manhood to the dregs, she went still further and now placed the last of it on the altar in order that her pledge of the last man and the last dollar might be to the utmost redeemed (applause). It is not a matter of surprise that the Dominions of the Empire should spring immediately to the assistance of the Motherland. We are the heirs of British liberty. We shall be the heirs of this war and we are anxious to be honest executors of what Britain wins by this war (applause).

“The first chapter in the story of the new army of Britain is one of the most marvellous in the world. The creation of a few months, already it rivals the war machine of Germany (applause), the product of forty years. It shows the spirit of the British people; it shows the color of British blood, it justifies the confidence of humanity in the qualities of our Race and in the issue of this war (applause). My word and my message is this: Hold up your head at the sound of your country's name. Count nothing lost that goes to strengthen her arm or warm her heart. Forty millions of people with all their young manhood answering the call of war have faced the savagery of Germany, and faced it without a touch of fear. The British character is just what it was two centuries ago. In these days when thousands are plunged in gloom; when not a day passes but five hundred to a thousand lives are sacrificed—whole families sometimes in France—the British character is the British character still. Inflexible determination is written in every face, without trace of smile perhaps, but with no tears. British people gather together round the national flag and round the national altar (applause). Their minds are bent upon their tasks; they are throwing the whole force of a great people into their effort to save humanity from the domination of German autocracy—that is the finest sight any land ever presented, and that is the inspiration thrown out to the people of this country (applause). Slowly the great organization moves against Germany, slowly and resistlessly, through accidents, through errors to the goal, Great Britain moves against Germany. Never in the story of her long and glorious history, never has she moved at so great an issue. ‘We can never mistake that issue,’ it has been well said, ‘for it has been lit up by the flames of war and bound up in it is all that we treasure, that which having not to seek, and that which the lives of men have been spent to wring out of kings’ hands for a thousand years.’ The delicate growths of human and national relationships, the

sanction of religion. the nations, the right of the weak, even of the weak man, to live his life without fear of the strong—these are what we fight for. Other nations stand without and look with horror on the carnage. Some talk of entering into treaties guaranteeing the world's peace, but of what value is any treaty of peace until Germany is thrown out of Belgium (applause). Show me the meaning of a treaty if the Teutonic alliance survives this war triumphantly. 'It was not against our will,' said Maximilian Harden, who spoke the soul of his country—'It was not against our will as a nation taken by surprise we hurled ourselves into this gigantic war. We willed it; we had to will it. We do not stand before the judgment seat of Europe. We acknowledge no such jurisdiction. Our Might shall create a new law in Europe.' A treaty of peace with that spirit! Heaven spare us the contemplation of the nations today signing a peace treaty with a victorious Germany. Some day we shall sign a peace treaty, indeed, but it will not be written by those without the gates—it will be written by the people whose spirit has held up and maintained that sense of international fidelity on which alone all treaties rest.

"It will close the last chapter, or rather the greatest chapter, in the story of the new Great Britain. Britain stands with one of the best and brightest pages ever written in the history of the world. There is the source of our inspiration and until all our war obligations are discharged we must measure our task, our sacrifice, against that of Britain. We must measure our course by hers, and must follow the line that she follows. Our war obligations are not yet discharged. Our financial obligations are not yet discharged. Our military obligations are not yet discharged, and we must not allow ourselves to assume that they are. They are being discharged, but they ought to be discharged more rapidly. There are some who say that we ought to cease to enroll men, and to devote our energies to production of arms and war

supplies. That is a very comfortable and bloodless and unmanly part. Wherein does it differ from the part taken by a neutral? Wherein from profitable and friendly neutrality? Great Britain shows us the more excellent and noble way. She stands on every ocean of the world between us and destruction, and pours out her blood, and counts not the cost that liberty may live. We may now measure by her standard, and consider her spirit and her pluck rising, with every peril and multiplying and intensifying with every danger. Her spirit for the second time has saved the world, and the spirit and pluck of Britain which has held the Allies together must be our inspiration until the battle ends and it is time for us to enjoy the fruits of our struggle.” (Loud applause).

CAPTAIN H. A. PEARSON
— ON —
“The War and the Y. M. C. A.”

(April 30th, 1917.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver on April 30, 1917, when Captain H. A. Pearson of the Y. M. C. A. at the front in France was the guest of honor. Rev. Principal Vance introduced Captain Pearson.

Captain Pearson said in part: “I should like to give you at the outset some comparisons with the figures of our military effort at the beginning of the war and what we have since done, so that you will be able to see some of the problems that we have had to meet. We find today many people, in spite of the official reports, do not really know what the actual situation is. In the matter of guns, therefore, when you read of the great numbers that are being turned out you can hardly imagine what we did in the early days of the war. If you remember in the early days when the army went to France and held a few miles of line we had altogether twelve nine-point-four guns. Behind our position at Ypres we had one of these only. But the situation is changed today. My figures are not exactly up to date, but they will serve to give you an idea—in these days sixty of these guns are being turned out every month. In regard to smaller guns, we had behind us in the Battle of Ypres something like 116 pieces of artillery eighteen pounders, 4.5’s, behind our three miles of front. If you think of three miles of country here and think of that number of guns it might seem to you to be well defended, but not so to us. Last fall behind that same small area we had 2,200 pieces of artillery (applause). In fact we can almost gauge the extent of our army development by learning the number of pieces of artillery.

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“When Mr. Lloyd George was asked some time ago when he was going to stop the production of guns he said whenever the guns would reach axle to axle from the North Sea to Switzerland. In Britain they are turning out today just as many guns as they can. They are turning out in a few days now more than we had in the whole army at the beginning of the war. There are days now when we receive thirty-five aircraft made by the Rolls-Royce people, and what that means to us you can guess from the early days of the war, when there was never a fair day but we would have a German over our heads bombing not only our own positions, rail-heads and even the horse lines, so that men had to be always on the watch, and it would be days before they could get things straightened out again. Not only that but they even bombarded our huts, and in one of these we lost twenty men killed and a great many wounded by one bomb. When these men could come over there and clear the way our men would tear out and pursue them but they would get away because they had the faster machines. But the Somme last fall showed a different story, Many of our men at that time never saw a German aircraft at all. We had them over our lines only once on June 26. when they celebrated the great Belgian fete day. Our lines are now patrolled by aircraft who keep watch, each of them over a twenty-five mile front, and not a German can get over without being pursued. The Fokker, when it came out first, had a speed of 122 miles an hour, and it could drive our men from the air; but we soon made it up again, and our machines can do 125 miles now on the level.

“In the early days the Germans had another advantage. They could lay out their poison gas pipe lines, and when the wind was favorable they could turn on the gas and we suffered. That does not happen any more (applause). Our airmen can see what is doing and can find out where their tanks are and fire on them with the artillery so as to give them the benefit of their own gas (applause). We have not had a gas attack since September 16, 1915. Think

of what that has meant, and think of what England has been able to do in other matters like it as well. In the original army that went to France 60,000 men was the first contingent. Now Canada keeps 85,000 men in France, or more than England had at the outset. The Australians have 100,000 men, not counting their army in Egypt, while the British army in France altogether does not number less than 1,500,000 men, apart from the large numbers on the other fronts in different parts of the world. In England, as well as this, the army in reserve is about 15 per cent. greater than the total number of men on the various fronts. As to the rations—the rationing of the people—some of us get pessimistic when we read of the work of the submarines, and ask, ‘Won’t the time soon come when the armies are going to be hard-pressed because they cannot get more rations?’ And they point to one week in February last when the British official report gave 27 British steamers sunk of over a thousand tons, and say it is a serious thing to lose so many boats at such a time. But that report is more remarkable for what it leaves out than for what it contains. In that same week 1,200 other boats safely landed in England with their cargoes. You might properly say that that is the real wonder of the thing. The boys from here go to England and to Shorncliffe regularly. Some of them perhaps might feel that the British navy was beginning to lose its power on the seas, but when they look out over the waters of the Channel and see the thousands of boats going to and fro there in safety—the boats of every country in the world flying the flag of every country in the world save that of Germany—they begin to see things differently and to realize that after all she could rule them little better. It may seem to some that Britain may be losing her control over the ocean and Germany gaining some success, but the real wonder is not the boats that England has lost, nor what the German submarines have been able to do since August, 1914, but that between Folkestone and Boulogne troops have been passing across and back there night

and day, and we have yet to lose our first man (applause).

“Whenever we are inclined to be pessimistic let us remember that we belong to a nation that keeps the pathways of the sea open for all nations that have a right to use them—for all neutrals, too. Sometimes we hear a great deal about the German organization. People say: ‘If we had the organization that Germany has.’ Men, if there are those amongst you who are pessimistic you ought to see what has been done in France. In all her plans England has never given the slightest hint that the war will ever be over. The war will last forever so far as she is concerned. They have taken a thirty years lease of the railways of France and they are making their preparations on the same basis. At Rouen, for example, where in the old days one of England’s kings lived, and where St. Joan of Arc was burned by the English, you will find English again in the town. On the famous race course you will see them—35,000 of them—and so English is the place that you will hardly hear French spoken in it. In the Post-office there are British clerks. I saw British soldiers sweeping the streets and doing all kinds of similar tasks. All the city’s affairs are run by the English, and sometimes the French will say ‘When we have got the Germans out of France we shall have another task on our hands (laughter). You will see, therefore, that in carrying out her programme England acts as if the war would never be over. In the early days at Ploegsteert we were taking drivers from the wagons and cooks from the ranks to help to fill the trenches. Now two hundred miles behind the trenches we have men thousands of them, building railways and long water conduits, and laying telephone cables—a work that might seem to us unnecessary. But the patience of England in these last days has had its reward. The Germans have moved back eight to ten miles to get out of range of those British guns that this work enabled us to get there. Yet because of these arrangements we are able to follow them up in the course of a day or two (applause). If we were likely to lose

our faith in the army because it seemed to be employed on things that did not seem to be important you ought to see the miles of ships filled with foodstuffs and the new docks in England with the unloading devices. Then you would have more faith in the navy, too. It is true, though the statement has not been given prominence, that we finished the year 1916 with more ships—134 of them—than we had at the beginning.

“As to the drive that is now on, we do not try to go through the enemy lines, but our artillery is doing what our men tried to do at Loos and did not succeed. Now we have thousands of shells, and the artillery is never inactive, even when you read in the official reports that there were no events of importance along the front. You ought to see the artillery officers’ maps showing the long line that Germany has to defend. Not long ago the Belgians held 18 miles of that line, the British 138, and the French 231. Each army had to account for a hundred men per mile of front, and at the outset our men had a difficult time accounting for that hundred men. But now, with our artillery, it is easy.

“As to the French army, if you could have seen the French army in the early days dressed in those red baggy trousers with heavy blue coats, having the tails for pockets—those trousers collected the mud and water to such an extent that the men cut off their coat tails. Twenty thousand of these men marched out of Rouen when I was there and it was like a funeral. The people in France, whenever a relative is called to the colors, dress in black, and when those went out of Rouen to the battlefield there was not a cheer. Amongst the crowd a hotel keeper said to me, ‘There they go, the poor devils.’ It seemed as if their equipment and the uniform did not give them a chance against the enemy. Soon afterwards we saw a Black Watch regiment come through the town playing Scottish airs and swinging along—and I need not ask you to imagine that for you have heard a Scotch march too often here in Van-

couver—they came swinging down the road singing the songs of Scotland, and what an effect it had on the French people? What a great contrast it was? And it had its effect on the French hotel keeper, for he turned to me and said, ‘There they go; God bless them.’ (Laughter and applause). They, the French people just worship these boys of ours and they know they mean business when they see them so well-equipped and ready for anything. When the French troops entered Noyon and the other recovered towns of France a little while ago the old men did not know them. They said, ‘What troops are these?’ The French were wearing new uniforms, and the old people did not recognize them. They were singing as they came along in smart uniforms well-equipped and looked altogether fitted for private life than for the field of battle.

“We know how the French took back in five days at Verdun all they lost in seven months’ fighting. The Germans then lost 800,000 men on those hill sides slippery with blood. The Germans who were slain there numbered thousands upon thousands. If you could see the French army today you would see an army better equipped, more hopeful and more certain of victory than any army. Our guns now fire ten to the Germans’ one, but the French say that their guns fire a hundred to the enemy’s one (applause), and they have yet to use the first round of American-made ammunition. They have solved the problem of their munition supplies.

“We have to face the future. We may be able to say when this war is over that we have fought the good fight but the greatest problems of all will be those that will come after the war. The problem of the returned soldiers for instance. I am glad to see that here you have something in view, but in other parts of Canada it is going to be a mighty problem. It is great to be a hero and to be welcomed home as such, but the time will come when the men who are heroes must get back to work. We have to say to these men that they must become common citizens once more and that, like

common citizens, they must go back to work. We have to say—‘You have got to forget all that hero business.’ That is itself a mighty problem to face yet we must face it. I myself have seen already returned soldiers in more than one of our cities going about from door to door selling sheet music. People buy it, not because they need it but because they find that the men selling it are returned soldiers. These men are trading on the fact that they are returned soldiers.

“The next thing that we have to deal with is to replace the loss of leadership which we have suffered. We have lost some of our best leaders in France. One night I remember the Germans held a barricade against us, and when the General called for volunteers from the Tenth Battalion—he wanted eighty of them—everyone in the battalion volunteered to blow up that barricade. You see we are sending the cream of our men to the war. You cannot read the names of the boys who are buried—sixteen thousand of them—behind that shell strewn area in France without realizing the loss of leadership. Of those men who volunteered to blow up that barricade only eighteen of them returned alive and unwounded. How are we going to replace these men?? How are you going to train those men who return and fit them to take up the work of those who do not come back?

“When Kitchener went to France in October, 1914, and saw the situation there he gave us \$75,000 War Office money and told us of the Y.M.C.A.—the first money the War Office gave in such a way—to do something for the army that the army could not very well do for itself. We undertook to supply huts and places in which the boys could spend their spare time for there are only too many places where it is desirable that they should refrain from going. Men, our problem in France I may frankly say is a vast one. It is a moral one, and the real question at the bottom of it is this: Are we going to have our boys come back to us—not with limbs gone; that is bad enough, but there is worse—but come back to us bringing back to our communities,

to our family circles, some of these diseases from Europe? It does not pay to speak about this thing, but, men, there it is. It is a man's job to deal with that problem, and it takes at present 85 officers and five hundred others to face the situation.

“We shall have thousands of the boys who will come home without a mark; we shall have some who will never come back, and some will come back wounded and mutilated. But the man who comes home clean to us will have done what will be worth more than a hundred Victoria Crosses. This war helps men to determine what kind of fellows they are. You must not think that there are not thousands of the best amongst them. There are. We have real heroes everywhere in that land—those who have faced these temptations and come away clean from them.” (Loud applause).

MISS ADA L. WARD
— ON —
“Entertaining at the Front.”

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(May 4th, 1917.)
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A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was given in the Hotel Vancouver on May 4 in honor of Miss Ada L. Ward, of the Lena Ashwell concert party which has been entertaining soldiers at the front. Miss Ward was introduced by Rev. Principal Vance, who explained that Miss Ward had also toured England for months giving entertainments for patriotic purposs.

Miss Ward, who was well received, said: “This is the first opportunity I have had of meeting a men’s Canadian Club in my journey across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and I need not say how glad I am to have a chance of speaking to you in this way. I know you have had many speakers from the front. I know that you have had doctors and soldiers and nurses probably, and war correspondents, and they have all given you different aspects of the war. I come to you in a new light as an entertainer, and it is in that capacity that I am here. I found myself in France with all a woman’s heartbreak and anguish for what was happening there, but I determined that whatever happened the boys would have a good time if I and others could give it to them (applause).

“In the early part of the war Lady Rodney, a well known English lady, lost her boy, a bright lad of wonderful promise. In order to perpetuate his memory she not only erected a hut where the men could meet and secure social comforts, but she also decided to give them what her boy had so greatly appreciated—music and healthy entertainment. She wished to send out parties to France to cheer up the men. It was not an easy task. She collaborated with Miss Lena Ashwell, the brilliant English actress, who, as

some of you know, was educated in Toronto. She is a splendid woman. Through her Lady Rodney got into touch with the professional workers, and enlisted on her side also Princess Victoria, of Schleswig-Holstein. This triumvirate, or perhaps I should say trium-feminate, had a great many difficulties to surmount, with the War Office especially, but as I daresay those of you who are married know that when a woman wills she will (laughter), and so these ladies melted down all the red tape, if I may use a mixed metaphor like that, and finally won the hearts of the authorities.

“Now those entertainments are given under the aegis of the authorities at the front, and I often receive requests such as ‘May she come back to us again?’ I may tell you now that I do not sing—unless you want to have the room cleared in quick time (laughter). I do not play, but from my earliest childhood I have been able to sketch. I may say that I lisped in sketches, for the sketches came. And drawing is really the only subject in which I have consistently failed to pass my examinations (laughter). Oh, it is not at all funny. Since I was well known in England as a cartoonist, my name was brought before Miss Ashwell. It happened that someone said that they wanted Ada Ward if they could get hold of her. That was a great pride and joy to me. It happened one day when I was in my office in London the telephone bell rang and a voice said: ‘Do you think you could be ready to go to France on Saturday?’ This was Monday, and I thought for a minute. ‘We are sending a concert party there. We have a quartette, two ladies and two gentlemen singers, a violinist and a pianist, but we want a comic (laughter). We are short a variety turn. We have had a conjuror and ventriloquist in the past but we want a change. Will you come and see me and see what you can do for us?’

“That was Miss Lena Ashwell. I went to see her, and then discovered that I had to entertain before Princess Victoria who, I was told, was very particular as to what

should be sent. They only engaged the very best it appeared (laughter).

"I can assure you that it is something of an ordeal to face a real live princess, and I felt not a little awkward. However, I drove up to the West End in a taxicab with my blackboard and chalk, faced the ordeal, and was told to join the party on Saturday. I got to Waterloo station at the proper time and was soon crossing the Channel. Finally I landed in that fair, sunny land, war-worn and shell-shattered. We found that no delays were looked for and that we had to begin at once. We had to give our first concert immediately, and this was something I did not quite expect. It was my first experience of the kind and I shall never forget it. The hall was large—indeed it was a tent open at the sides. The audience was already assembled, some of them on stretchers, some wheeled in bath chairs, some limping, some hopping, every one of them broken and mutilated in this great cause for you and for me. When I saw all those helpless men my heart misgave me. How could I make them laugh? These poor broken lads.

"I am going to tell you something I never told in public before—an admission of a woman's weakness. I went behind that tent and had a good howl. A first experience is always trying—like addressing a Canadian club for the first time. But just as I shall not dread meeting a royal princess again so shall I not dread addressing a Men's Canadian Club ever again (laughter). Those wounded boys, I shall never forget them. There was a lump in my throat and a mist before my eyes; yet, as I watched them, I realized their wonderful courage and endurance. One of the boys I noticed was bandaged just like a mummy, in fact more so than like a human being. Only one eye was visible, but it was a very bright eye. His left arm was in a sling and the right was not there at all. His lower limbs were bandaged; yet in that condition he managed to give me a wink with his good eye (laughter). As the concert went on he called to a friend to wipe that eye because the tears were coming from it;

but they were tears of laughter (applause) that were rolling down his cheeks. Then there were two boys on the other side of the room who had decided to sit together because each of them had lost an arm and they wished to clap their remaining hands together in order to give applause at the proper moments. Think, gentlemen, of the magnificence of those wonderful heroes. There was another who had a thumb and finger missing from one hand, and he told me with glee that he was left handed, and seemed to think it was a great joke that the Germans had spared his left hand and taken from him something that he did not miss at all (applause). God knows they have given their best to us, and it is a privilege to be able to do anything that might make them forget for a little time the agony they have gone through.

“I should like to linger a little longer over that concert and that delightful afternoon. We had tea with the matrons and with the nurses. I cannot speak of their work, for if I did I should have to speak to you for the rest of the afternoon and speak to you of nothing but hospitals.

“There was much work waiting to be done after we left there, and as soon as tea was over motors were waiting to take us to the military camp where our evening concerts were to be given. At the hut or tent where the concert was to be given we found it packed with soldiers, men jammed together from the platform to the back of the room. There they were, perspiring, suffocating almost, a choking mass of them, all of them smoking. Think of that atmosphere. It got thicker and thicker, and bluer and bluer, till at the end of the concert we could not see across the room. It was like pea-soup. We heard the cheers from them even before we arrived. It was these cheers that told me of one danger that threatens our boys who are in France. They are well looked after, well fed and well equipped, and when they are in the trenches they are well sheltered most of the time. But they have to face one danger, and that is the danger of monotony. It is monotony that drives a

man to drink or to gambling, or drives him to something worse. And those cheers told me that the men realized that here was a change from the monotony, from military discipline. Here were men from home, civilians, some girls, some nice girls even (laughter). So we began, and they settled down for the evening's entertainment. What a chance for one! If you are chosen to go to France you can look on yourself as hallmarked because you will speedily find that Tommy understands music, that he can both play and sing himself; that many of him have gone from the stage. You will find he is a fine critic. We were therefore on our mettle and gave the best we could. We had a lovely quartette singing some of the most beautiful songs in our language.

“I wish you could have seen these men. They hung on every word of it, and when it was over then came the encores, not one or two of them, but five or six, and I have known some of our artists to have given no less than fifteen encores. So that if you are going to France you will know that you must have an extensive repertoire. For one reason Tommy chooses his own songs and his own encores. You will hear such a dialogue as this: ‘Sy, Miss, give us Annie Laurie, will yer?’ And before the artist could comply another voice would say scornfully—‘Annie Laurie, not much. Give us Philadelphia, Miss; don’t mind ’im.’ And then ‘That ain’t a lady’s song, you blighter!’ And someone else, ‘Annie Laurie’s dead and buried; we’ve had too much of ’er!’ But at nearly all the concerts they called for Ipswich, which is a terrible tongue twister of a song, and in which the men would join in the chorus.

“When they saw my blackboard they did not like it. Nobody told them I had it with me, and on the way over everybody strafed it. In the Old Country it was not so bad, but I had to take it with me to France, for blackboards do not grow behind the trenches. They strafed it at Waterloo, however, where the porter said to me: ‘Ahahackababa’ (laughter). The strafing continued in France where my fel-

low artistes would say 'Make way for the Dreadnought.' I did not mind that, but I was a little concerned when Tommy took a dislike to it. He had had much to do with blackboards before and he did not associate them with entertainments. In fact I believe he thought he was going to learn something (laughter.) That would have been a tragedy, would it not? In order to cheer him up I began my part of the entertainment with pictures, drawing like the children do, men with rake hands and triangle bodies. As soon as they saw this it prepared the way for the more elaborate sketches I had prepared. When I had finished came the National Anthem, sung as only Tommy can sing it. Wonderful! Then the room was cleared and another crowd of eager, excited, perspiring and suffocating Tommies poured in, smoking everyone of them. Those who came in the first time had pink tickets; those who came in the second time had yellow. This was to prevent any of the boys hearing the performance twice over. But plenty of them did. We went on with our concert again and that was our work every day—three times a day, all the time we were in France—hospital in the morning, convalescent camp in the afternoon, and the huts in the evening. We had audiences at the wharves, at the docks, on the railways, in convents, monasteries, in greenhouses, in outhouses—everywhere we went we took our music and fun. It was not easy work, I can tell you, and by the end of the time we found it so exacting and exciting that we were tired out. Our voices were gone, and as your president has told you we were nearly kippered. So that now when anyone says graciously to us: 'Do you object to smoking?' I always say to myself: 'You do not really know what a dried old kipper you are talking to (laughter). Why, smoking is almost the breath of life to me'' (Laughter).

"We loved it—every minute of it—and there is not one amongst us but who would return again. The greatest of my delights was when the boys at the front wrote and asked for Ada Ward to come to them again and give them her

ten-minute talks. Imagine limiting a woman to a ten minute talk and in that time to give a one man show (laughter). I went out again for four months to France, and without a single break—Sundays and week days I entertained them—on Sundays with Bible stories and pictures, and on week days with the ordinary things. I have seen those boys looking with all their eyes—just like children, and listening to the grand old Book and I have thanked God for my gift of humor and for the opportunity that was given me to minister to the most appreciative audience in the whole wide world (applause).

“That was our work, gentlemen, but, of course, it was varied by pathetic and comical incidents, for instance we were giving a concert one evening when I saw a funny object on one side of the tent. I looked at it and could not think what it was. I realized that it was a human ear. The owner could not get into the tent so he had taken a knife, cut a slit in the canvas, and stuck his ear through it in order that he might hear what was taking place (laughter. That ear I could see was listening most eloquently (laughter). It was very amusing

“Some of our work was done in the great Casinos of France. I have been in these places in peace time and I must say I have felt an atmosphere of evil about them. I have realized its concentrated essence when I have been there and seen foreigners win and lose at the green tables—those keen, hard, grey faces of persons trying to make money without working for it. They are all gone now, and those marble and gilt columns in those lovely gardens by the sunny sea are havens of rest and peace for those who have fought in the war and who have suffered agony for their country. There they hear Annie Laurie sung by the greatest of our English sopranos and accompanied by cello obligato. It seemed then as if the whole of the evil had vanished away. And it all reminded me of the story of General Booth when he was once in a meeting and got a cheque from a man who apparently was interested in the

General's campaign for 'Darkest London.' After the meeting was over a friend came up to General Booth and asked him, 'Do you mean to keep that cheque?' 'Yes,' said General Booth, 'Why not?' And then the friend told him that the man who had made it out had made his money in a more than questionable way. But catch General Booth giving up a cheque once he had got hold of it (laughter). He doubled it up and put it in his pocket. 'That tainted money?' he said, 'Well, the tears of the widows and the orphans will wash away the taint.' I thought of that when I sat in yonder Casinos, that all the agony and suffering of the present would make those places clean and sweet and wholesome once more.

"The boys are getting on splendidly with the French people—not talking French, of course, because naturally they insist on the French people talking English (laughter) or a most curious cosmopolite language—a kind of Anglo-French lingo very amusing to listen to. They both can make themselves understood. The Tommies make for themselves lovely little gardens wherever they are and there is hardly a camp in France where they have not a garden well worth looking at. At one place I remember the prospect appeared hopeless for the camp was not built on green grass but on cinders; yet even there the soldiers had painted them red, blue and yellow to look like flowers and arranged them to look like a garden.

"During my second visit I was able to go into places where a concert party could not possibly be taken. One day a request came by telephone asking for Ada Ward to come and cheer up some patients in a place where artists rarely went. This was in a small hospital where all the cases were what is known as 'jaw cases.' There was not a boy there but had the lower part of his face blown away—not a boy there who was not terribly mutilated. Those who asked me to go there said: 'You will be prepared for it; you will do your best.' But although I did try to prepare I could have screamed when I got there and saw what

had happened those dear boys. But they were doing wonders for them with that new plastic surgery, and many of them were getting well and strong again. Oh! the laughter in their eyes—it gave me an idea of how they could endure. It was a wonderful thing to me. Another time I was lecturing and the boys were so eager to see my sketches that some of them got up into the rafters and crushed and squashed until at last the rafters came down altogether, and for the first and last time in my experience I could truthfully say that I had brought the house down (laughter.) I was a little disconcerted at this, but someone in the heap of skuffling, scrambling boys said, ‘It’s all right, go on Miss; no casualties.’ (Laughter).

“That is their great word, ‘Go on; go on.’ You must go on.. I remember one difficulty we had. It was at a crowded concert where the boys were uproarious and were singing ‘Ipswitch’ at the top of their voices. I saw a big sergeant elbow his way into the room. Now, the boys are so keen on these concerts that they do not miss a single word that is sung or said, so that when anyone interrupts they put him on the floor and sit on him (laughter). When I saw this big sergeant pushing his way up the room unchallenged I saw that something was the matter. As soon as he reached the officer who was doing duty as chairman he spoke a few words to him amid a silence that could be felt and the next moment that merry drama was turned into one of the most terrible I have ever known. As the sergeant came up the boys bent over just like the wind bends over a field of corn. Some of them had to fall in at once and leave for duty. We heard the words on the platform. After consulting with the colonel the sergeant said: ‘Coldstreams and Scots Greys, Sir.’ The colonel sat up and asked, ‘Any men of the Scots Greys or the Coldstreams here?’ And without a moment’s hesitation from every part of the room splendid fellows got up and went out. They were wanted immediately in the trenches. Think of it! Think of the contrasts—the men who, a moment before, were

enjoying themselves with merriment, mirth, music and brightness, and then to go out into the dark to meet death in a hundred terrible forms. There was no hesitation. How could we go on with our evening's enjoyment after that?

"I suggested to the pianist to play the National Anthem, but some of the men caught my words—'The National Anthem,' they said, 'Half way through the concert. No fear. If a few chaps do go out it leaves all the more room for those that are left. 'It's orl right. Go on; go on.' And there is the cry again: 'Go on; go on!' (Applause).

"It is the cry I give to you. We cannot stop in our task because a few slip out into the dark. The king is dead but long live the king. The courage and example of our boys nerve us to do things that at the beginning of the war we could never have done.

"One day we left the camp altogether, left the towns and went right away from civilization to entertain the men who do duty behind the trenches. It was at a horse hospital. We are all apt to forget that the men employed in this kind of work have a terribly monotonous work—such work as at times must almost drive them to despair. In one camp for instance, every day they make 250,000 loaves of bread. In another they manufacture or re-make 33,000 pairs of boots—for there is no waste and old boots are used up to make new ones. Indeed it is sometimes said they would make a boot out of a lace hole (laughter). Think of the appalling monotony of that kind of work. So we went up there and took our songs and material for the boys to amuse them. It is something marvellous at these hospitals to see how carefully and well the animals which have been wounded in the war are treated and made well again. Some of them suffer from shrapnel wounds, and at this hospital we went to there were 500 of them being tenderly cared for. The men there managed them splendidly, and some of them could even take care of a mule. And if you can manage an army mule you can manage anything created. This performance we had to give outside on the grass, and all

around were the men and the stables. I can see it now. I can smell it (laughter). I never get a whiff of the stables now but I think of that wonderful audience. When it came to my turn it began to rain, and I can assure you that talking in the open in rainstorm is not easy. My chalk would hardly make a mark on the blackboard. The worst of it was that the men thought I was frightened of the weather, and they said, 'Go on, it's all right, miss. It's only rain. We do not stop in war-time for a drop of rain. Say, Miss, you're awful sweet,' (laughter). 'You ain't made of sugar,' and so on. Thy realized what was the matter however, and held up a horse-blanket over the blackboard, and under this my talk went on. Just then a tiresome press photographer took a snapshot of me in a mackintosh under the horse-blanket. I never knew about it until I got back to the Old Country and saw my picture in the paper. But Tommy got his wish; he always does; that is why he is going to win the war (applause). After the concert the officer commanding so much appreciated what we had done for his men that by way of giving us a treat and showing his appreciation he told us that they were going to have an operation on a horse—to remove its eye—and we could come along. We did not quite relish the idea but did not like to say so, so we went with him to the operating theatre. There we saw an animal with its eye badly shattered and the surgeon proceeded to take it out. All the instruments were sterilized and chloroform was given to the horse in a bag over the animal's nose. Hearing it coughing we ladies took advantage of the general interest and sneaked away. They never missed us; they were so keen on their work. The gentlemen members of our party, however, told us that the operation was successful; that the horse would be ready for work in three weeks. In the old days that poor thing would have died in agony on the battlefield. So when next you hear an appeal for the Blue Cross fund think of it as being worthy of your sympathy.

“From there we motored twenty-five miles nearer to the

trenches, as near as tiresome civilians are ever allowed to go. The men of a concert party go nearer sometimes—very near occasionally, but they do not like to be bothered with ladies. Here we entertained another section of the same army corps—men who have horses to deal with from morning to night—loading and unloading fodder for the animals. They are a rough lot many of them—dock laborers taken from the wharves and docks of the English ports, put into khaki, and that is all they see or know about war. One of these men told me that he had slept with a revolver under his pillow for a long time because he had heard that a clergyman was coming out to do them good (laughter.) He came, however, and after a time they realized when he did his day's work with them that he was a man before he was a parson or a social worker, and then they welcomed him as a man and a brother. One of the wives in the East end of London said she hoped this war would never end. (Laughter.) You need not tell me that rough men of this kind do not appreciate good music. They do. It was amusing to hear our tenor singing some of the best airs from Grand Opera and see those men listening to the wonderful Russian music that we gave them. One big rough fellow with signs of hard living and drinking creasing his face—it was like a mountain sunset in color to see that face listen to us and to see him tenderly nursing the dirtiest, sickest, smallest, blackest little kitten I have ever seen was something wonderful. He explained that it had lost its mother and wandered in amongst the soldiers.

“I said to him: ‘Whatever are you doing with that wretched little kitten?’ And he replied sheepishly: ‘Well, Miss, a bloke must have something. The kids ain’t here; the wife’s at home; there ain’t no one; and we can’t love one another.’ (Laughter.) So you see he was expending his love on that miserable three inches of kitten. I said: ‘But it is so dirty.’ And he replied: ‘Well, so would you be dirty if you had lost your mother.’ (Laughter.) And he took a khaki pocket handkerchief out of his pocket—

not washed since the declaration of war I suspect—and proceeded to work. ‘We’ll clean it for you,’ he said (laughter).

“I tell, you, gentlemen, it was wonderful. One of the others, also a rough chap, I must tell you about. He came shuffling up to me and said: ‘Can I speak to you a minute, miss?’ I said ‘Yes.’ He still shuffled. Then he said at last: ‘Would you mind coming over here a minute, Miss?’ I began to see. Many a boy has before this taken me over to the edge of the platform and showed me with great secrecy and importance something which he ended up by stating ‘You see, that is my girl.’ (Laughter). So I thought it was going to happen again; this man was so mysterious about it. So he drew me away from the others and then stood on one foot and afterwards on the other until I do not know which of us looked the silliest. Then he said in a sort of hoarse whisper: ‘Are you keepin’ company wi’ anyone, Miss?’ (Laughter).

“So there you are gentlemen. There’s gratitude for you. So greatly had he enjoyed what I had done for him and the others that he thereupon offered his hand and heart to a poor unworthy travelling concert artiste. Oh, it was beautiful (laughter.) No civilian dare do it (renewed laughter). We had our supper in a dark tent illuminated with stable lanterns, and as for a tablecloth I never saw one. But these rough men had made the table sweet and bright with sweet peas. They had, of course, not the slightest idea how to arrange them (laughter)—they were placed on the table just like the Book of Euclid—the First Book (laughter), but they felt at the back of their heads that artistes should have bouquets, and their idea of a bouquet was how many flowers they could get into it. There were thousands and thousands of them, rammed and jammed and squashed and packed together, and not only that, but they were wrapped up in a big white satin ribbon.

“When supper was over we found them at the door of our car singing the regimental song which was ‘Here we

go gathering oats and hay' (laughter.) A particularly rough-looking man said to the others: 'Let's take the horses out and shove them.' Now there were no horses, so they persuaded the driver of the motor car not to start the engine and they pushed us for a quarter of a mile.

"Someone has sometimes said to me: 'Why are you going to France to entertain the soldiers?' And I have told them that if we can make Tommy forget the war even for a little while we shall be doing a good thing. I have felt that if we could do nothing else but just cheer up some little section of our army we should have done something worth while. Do you not think so? (Applause.)

"Possibly you may not have heard of this concert work before; but I can assure you the men appreciate it quite as keenly as the parcels you send so generously. The greatest tribute paid to our work is to be seen in the packed building, packed from floor to ceiling.

"I had a wonderful experience of that kind in a French theatre. Now I should tell you that that realised a childish dream of mine. When I was a little girl in a North Country village I used to see myself as an actress—not in England, oh, no.; but in a French theatre, and crowds should be listening to me, and I should have on a pretty frock. I little thought that that dream would be realized, but it was. It was realized in tragic conditions. The French theatre was crowded, indeed; I had on a pretty frock, and there was a great array of boys in khaki that was imposing. When it was all over one of these presented me with a huge bouquet of crimson roses and presented it in such a gallant way that I nearly said to him: 'Are you keepin' company wi, anyone.' (Loud laughter.) A Brigadier-General presided, and he said: 'We just want to thank you for the work you have done for us and to show you how keenly we have appreciated it; we want to give you some tangible proof. We have had a collection made amongst the officers. We have not given much, but we have managed to raise \$1,000 for you. Here it is.' And he held up a cheque on the Bank of France.

It was only a scrap of paper, but it will be honored. 'Take it back to England,' he said, 'give it to Miss Ashwell and thank her for what she has done for our men and tell her to do the same for others.' (Applause.)

"So you see there again is the note 'Go on, go on.' In their determination that elementary right and justice shall prevail they will go on until they win this mighty conflict. When I went back to England and took up my work of lecturing in government prisons, the chaplain of one of them met me and said: 'We have a very small audience,' and I replied 'I have never been so glad in my life that there is a small audience.' And then the chaplain told me they were closing the prison and turning it into a military hospital. Who would not be an optimist under those conditions? Gentlemen, I say to you, 'Go on. Canada must say to the rest of the empire: 'Tell them we are doing our bit and that we will go on.' (Applause). Anybody can do their bit for a month; but it takes big hearts as well as big men to go on through the weary months and years. But those conscious of a righteous cause can do it. I tell you, gentlemen, our cause is righteous. It is only a scrap of paper but it is also a nation's pledged word, and it is up to you and to me to see that that scrap of paper is honored to the very last interpretation of it.

"I loved our concert work. I could tell you about them on board ship, in Egypt and in Malta. We have now some anxiety about them because of a shortage of funds at this juncture. But that is not what I wish to talk of, but only to conclude with the sincerest hope that I can express that our souls and mine may be as fit to mingle with theirs as they are fit to mingle with the sons of God." (Loud applause).

LIEUT.-COLONEL MULLOY

— ON —

“The Proposed Win-the-War Convention at Montreal.”

(May 14th, 1917.)

A luncheon in honor of Lt. Colonel Mulloy of the Royal Military College, Kingston, who distinguished himself in the South African war, where he lost his sight, was given in the Hotel Vancouver on May 14, by the Vancouver Canadian Club. Rev. Principal Vance, the president of the Club, took the chair.

Colonel Mulloy said in part: “The Win-the-War Convention is not a thing to be discussed. Whether it is or is not advisable, it is a reality and is to take place in Montreal as mentioned by your President. In order to understand the necessity of it, that we may meet on the good ground of a common understanding, I have been asked to repeat here a speech I delivered some time ago before your Board of Trade, and I beg the indulgence of those present who may have heard it before:

“In the Royal Military College, I had 56 bright boys all hand picked so far as intelligence is concerned and from all parts of the Dominion. They ranged in ages from 16 to 21 years. I wanted to see how far they could think for themselves, and after all that is the test of the calibre of a man’s intelligence and not what someone teaches him. I asked them this question: By what right do 12,000,000 of Canadians and Australians occupy one-eighth of the earth’s surface, while 1,500,000,000 are congested in the other seven-eighths? As an alternative question I asked: By what right do seven or eight millions of Canadians hold a territory equal to the great continent of Europe, the cradle of western civilization for over a thousand years—what right have we Canadians to hold that territory, while 350,000,000 of Europeans, far more highly organized and developed than

we are, and in a great many cases more cultured than we are too—not in the German sense of course—better educated than we are, and in the great majority of cases contributing more to the world of science and to the advance of humanity, are crowded into an equal space? But you will say, while it is true that we Canadians hold a territory equal to that of Europe, we are not as rich as Europe is in natural resources. Is that true?

“There was one only correct answer given me by the class.

‘Well, sir,’ said the youth, ‘our right to Canada is this—if it is challenged, it is our ability to hold it against all comers.’” (Applause.) And I may tell you that at Neuve Chapelle that boy gallantly and cheerfully laid down his life for that principle and knew why he did it. He knew that in this country everything we possess is at stake and our only right to Canada is success in war when we are at war. That and nothing else.

“What is your title to your property, the property you hold? Only a scrap of paper. What is behind it? Our laws the judge and jury system, our sheriffs and constables and the power of seizure, and behind that again our militia, our army. What is your banking account if you are lucky enough to have one? (Laughter). Some figures written in a book? What is behind it? British law, our judge and jury system, our constables and the power of seizure, our militia, our army. We live in the shadow of force but it is force used to back up right. There is nothing behind international law and consequently it is not observed by a nation which chooses to disregard it. So that you get back to this, that a nation’s right to its territory is the power of its manhood to fight. Disregarding our material possessions what of our invaluable rights and liberties, the liberties our fathers have won for us? What is behind them? A scrap of paper. What is behind our power to enforce it? What was the Declaration of Rights? A scrap of paper. What is

the British North America Act? Only a scrap of paper. What would that scrap of paper mean if Germany took this country of ours?

“Here is this country with its tremendous wealth and small number of people. It is not racially homogeneous. It rests on the first two foundation stakes—French and English. Some weeks ago, I was told that there were 106 different languages and dialects spoken in Canada. You have therefore this tremendous heritage held by a people not racially homogeneous and divided not only in that way, but also divided by geography, into various partially isolated areas whose economic needs not only do not coincide but actually conflict.

“We have now been at war two and a half years. We have sent between 300,000 and 400,000 of our best men to fight for us. They are dying by hundreds today. We have at Ottawa a House of Commons, but the personnel of Parliament was thrown up by far other issues than those now confronting us. The House of Commons has outlived its statutory period and has had its life extended for a year. Actually it has today no mandate from the Canadian people except the mandate based on a general assumption of patriotism amongst the people. I speak of the House of Commons in toto, not of any party government or opposition; it looks for guidance to the people. Public opinion is the breath of life of a House of Commons. It exists by popular approval. But what popular approval does it get? What message has it from the people? Nothing but the most confused and conflicting one imaginable. The Middle West says: ‘We want free trade.’ The New Brunswick legislature has voted unanimously for conscription. The Montreal Board of Trade has asked the Militia act be put in force. The Winnipeg Canadian Club has demanded a National Government.

“We have outgrown the idea of the Forum, and the place of the Forum has been taken by the press. But what a discordant note reaches the House of Commons from the

Press of the Dominion; but no one has yet suggested that the people themselves should have a conference—the people who in the last resort are the governing powers of the country. So in February last there was a dinner at the National Club, where fifty men representing every shade of national and political opinion in Toronto were present and they unanimously decided to call a national convention. They laid their plans. I came out here to address meetings, others were sent to the Maritime Provinces and to Quebec. The result today is that the National Convention assembles next week, and the whole proposition to you is that you see that British Columbia is properly represented by her best men. There is a national executive composed of about eleven men from British Columbia, eleven from Alberta and so on, which meets on Monday. I may say that Montreal and the Quebec legislature voted \$2,500 towards it and invited me to go back for more. I wished that the convention in numbers should comprise about 1200 men, so many from each constituency represented in the House of Commons as near as possible.

“The House of Commons, as I have said, has no mandate and that mandate can only be got by election. But what is a Canadian election today? Canada to my mind today is probably one of the most partizan-ridden countries in the world, outside of some of the Central American states. The chief difference between us and them is that they throw bullets and we content ourselves with throwing mud (laughter). An election today would mean merely two streams of misrepresentation. And how would the boys in the trenches look on it—the boys who are fighting and dying there for us? Let us take it that they were given the usual political pamphlets. One side in these will seek to prove that every one on the other side is a rogue and the opposition party will seek to prove that the first is a damned rogue (laughter). What do both of them prove? Simply this that you have not got a proper man in Canada to represent you. And that is what our soldiers will think.

Can we in the face of that think of a general election? That is our position.

“We have other difficulties. We lack a sympathetic understanding between one province and another. There is no sympathetic understanding on economic questions. We have been shouting from all over Canada—we want conscription. We want a national government. We want a general election, we want an extension of the life of Parliament. Let us get together and see if we, the men of Canada, cannot agree on the problems we have to meet. They are set forth in a document which I will ask the President to read.”

The president then read a document setting forth that the objects of the convention were: (1) reorganizing the Canadian army by the raising of a Canadian defence force, (2), promoting national unity and more intimate relations between the provinces, (3), reorganizing Canada for a maximum agricultural and industrial production, (4), relieving the labor situation in Canada after the war, (5), promote thrift, conserving the food supply and other resources, (6), war taxation.

Colonel Mulloy resumed: “At present we have 400,000 persons in munition works; what is to become of them when we are no longer making munitions? The day that an armistice is signed, 320,000 people in this country will be out of work. Then we have 400,000 troops and perhaps more, who will be demobilized, at the end of the war. And we have not a single labor exchange in the country to take care of them. Kitchener said that the labor exchanges of Great Britain would take the whole burden of demobilization off the shoulders of the war office. And we have not got a single one of them in Canada. This is one of the problems we must face in a National convention. In that convention we are not going to see what we can get for ourselves, but what we can give. That National convention is to show us what further burdens we can assume. The responsibility falls not upon our fathers nor upon our

children, but upon the men and women of today. In the clear perspective of half a century hence, the historian will judge us accurately and justly, whether we are worthy types of the Breed, whether we rise to our responsibilities.

“The convention is a reality and it now remains for you to see that the representation of your province shows a cross-cut section of every branch of activity in the province and the men in each branch.”

Mr. G. W. ALLAN, K. C.,
— ON —
“ Impressions of France in War Time.”

(April 17th, 1917.)

At a luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club in the Hotel Vancouver on April 17, 1917, Mr. George W. Allan, K. C., who had visited France and Great Britain in 1916 as trade commissioner for western Canada, gave an address on his impressions of France in war-time. Rev. Principal Vance, president of the club, was in the chair.

A silent toast to the memory of ex-Mayor Douglas, whose death had just taken place, and to that of Major Sweet, dead on the field of honor in France (formerly corresponding secretary of the club) was drunk, the members standing.

Mr. Allan said in part:

“This special trade commission which crossed the ocean had from its inception the determination to do one thing and that was to stick right down to business and to secure what we were sent to secure, to secure it as rapidly as possible on the other side and not to presume to give advice or to ask any favors, to give no interviews to the press, but instead to get through our work as thoroughly as possible and make our interim report. We were able to do this very thoroughly so far as regards our investigations and inquiries in Great Britain. We were able to do the same thing in Italy. Everything conduced on the part of the governments to enable us to do this and to achieve it rapidly. In France, however, there was this difference. Up to the moment of our arrival on French soil we had the anticipation that we would be allowed to make our own plans and arrange our own time and carry out our primary desire to get through our business as rapidly as possible. The circumstances, however, were as follows: We were met

at Le Havre by representatives of the French government and we found on arrival at Paris that a most elaborate itinerary had been arranged for us by the French government. I am sure this was dictated by a wonderful appreciation on the part of the French who desired to show us that they understood what Canada has done and is doing in the war and also with the strongest possible desire to extend to the people of Canada and to our brave boys on the western front, through the commonplace conduit pipe of half a dozen business men of western Canada, the warm appreciation they felt. It was somewhat embarrassing to us especially as our itinerary had been lithographed and printed for us and set out with beautiful photographs of the places we were to visit under their direction and also as elaborate preparations had been made by all these places throughout the country because they had all been notified in advance. We saw therefore that there was nothing for us to do but to follow the itinerary set out for us. That itinerary covered a motoring tour of 3200 miles over France and included a voyage down the Rhone in a special steamer.

“The honorary Canadian Trade Commission reached England on May 28 last year and for a period of ten days or so we were domiciled in London making the preliminary arrangements for our intended journeyings throughout Great Britain. We found Great Britain practically an armed camp. We found a voluntary army of five million men. We found the country grave, steadfast, prepared. Events came rapidly after our arrival. First came the Battle of Jutland and the very severe fighting at Ypres the casualties of which were heavy. Then the fighting of the 1st and 2nd July and the drowning of Lord Kitchener and his staff.

“Looking backward I cannot describe the feeling of the people of England more accurately than if I adopt the admirable verbiage of Kipling who said the Germans were winning all the victories but the Allies were winning the war (applause). I can point this out so far as Great

Britain is concerned that five million men came forward as a voluntary army to show their determination while hundreds of thousands of Englishmen took to working in factories and the best brains of England—those over military age,—took to serving their country without any reward. The determination of Great Britain at the time of our arrival I can best describe in the words of Mr. Lloyd George who said—“We must not merely have victory, unmistakable, unquestionable victory, but a victory that cannot be explained away by German professors to a credulous people.” (Applause.)

“When we were in England we knew that the man in the street knew about France. And our first question on going to France was: How went it with France? We got our answer on the 8th of June, before we crossed to France. Our answer was given by that wonderful man, Mr. Hughes, the Premier of Australia. We were at a luncheon given by Lord Desborough to the representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire gathered in London from all parts of the Overseas Dominions. Mr. Hughes was the guest and chief speaker at that luncheon. He told us amongst other things this: “I have just returned from the western front. I have been to see my Australians. I tell you gentlemen, that France is bleeding to death and three things have to be done by this country and at once. First of all the time for listening to representations from neutrals is over (applause). Settle with them after the war. Secondly, the time has come for tightening the blockade of the British navy in every detail until every particle of power is used against the enemy countries. Third and last, and greatest, and it must be done at once, is to extend the preparedness of our arms and forces on land; they must be used and used at once.” We got our answer there as regards France (applause).

“Well, then we got across to Havre and got military passes to get through the docks. We saw the German prisoners at work, three thousand of them.

“Our first impressions of France were those of soldiers everywhere—Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders from all the overseas Dominions, the soldiers of France and those of Kitchener’s army. This was our first introduction to the sorrows and losses of France. Everywhere we saw women in black—three out of every five that we saw on our journey to Paris. We went by daylight through that smiling valley of the Seine and it was hard to realize that a portion of France—a large portion of the best and most fertile portion of their country was under the grip of the enemy. We saw the land being cultivated by old men, women and children. At that time all the manhood of the country between 18 and 48 had joined the army to fight for their country, and later on the age was reduced to sixteen. In Paris the population on the Sunday when we arrived was in the streets and parks, soldiers and women in black everywhere. All the beautiful hotels from the Champs Elysee to the Arc de Triumphe—all of them were occupied by wounded soldiers and for the next ten days in Paris I may say that I never saw a man, woman or child smile. The fearful anxiety, the fearful pressure of what was happening, the tremendous push of the enemy at Verdun, was upon the people. The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate at that moment were not only in continuous sessions but were in secret session, so stressful was the position of France.”

“Starting on June 18 we traversed most of France, and visited almost every town of importance. The railway service was wholly given up to the military, so we had to travel the 3200 miles of our journey by automobile. Extraordinary hospitality was extended to us on every side. Everywhere we went, there were crowds to meet us calling “Vive le Canada”. School-children lined up outside the little schools that we passed and made presentations of flowers. Wherever we went, the officials and leading men of the district—those who had not been called out for other service to their country—did what they could to welcome us.”

“I have selected three instances out of many, where

small children have told of the sorrow of France. One was where the towns were all in mourning though the day we went through they would be gay for the occasion and the flowers given us would contain a message to the Canadians. In one town a child wrote "Take with this bouquet the salutation of a small but hard-working town of France. To our friends the Canadians." At another little town in the French Alps the girls poured out of a little school, run by the priests and presented flowers with the legend: "To our comrades from Canada" (applause). All throughout France the agriculture was being taken care of by the old men in a marvellous way and by the women and children. The industries of France, from one end to the other, were the same, but in this case women did most of the work. You would see a plant where there were normally 400 employees; now there would be only 100 and of these most of them would be women. The hospitals of France are another wonderful sight. We were taken through some of them and we saw how the men and women of France were standing preeminent there in their sacrifice and service for their country.

"We were told that at least a million men had been killed up to the time we had been there. There were hundreds of thousands of wounded throughout France. Some of the most beautiful hotels at Biarritz, Nice, Vichy, where the rich and wealthy had previously congregated, were turned into hospitals. At Vichy where there are 10,000 inhabitants normally and 150,000 during the season, there were 27 hospitals—what had formerly been hotels—and every one of these from top to bottom full of wounded soldiers. After the Battle of the Marne, there had been no less than 18,000 of them altogether.

"A wonderful creation that arose subsequent to the war was the organizing of the munition factories. Outside Paris we saw a factory with 48,000 employees and 18,000 of them women. We visited another near Lyons where there were 5000 women and 5000 men. At St. Ger-

main, where the big guns are made, we saw five thousand employees in one building. They took a chef out of one of the Paris cafes and gave him the work of organizing the food-supply and cooking of this place and the experiment was a wonderful success. In fact everything of this kind shows that the people of France deserve an astonishing measure of praise for what they have done (applause).

“The French government accorded us the privilege of a visit to the French front at Belfort. We went into Alsace, the only bit of German soil yet occupied by France. Those of us who came from Lower Canada expressed a strong desire to put their feet upon it. They did. We went to the front from Bar-le-Duc and Verdun. At Verdun we saw four thousand motorcars going in and out with ammunition and supplies to the troops and coming back with wounded prisoners. In France, they call that road to Verdun—and it will probably be known by that name for all time to come—the Sacred Way. Because without that Sacred Way the defence of Verdun could never have been carried out the way it was (applause). We went through all the devastated zone and the ruined cities. It was our business to find out approximately what amount of destruction had been done.

“The French government told us that in the recovered territory there were 740 towns wholly or partly destroyed. There were 250 being demolished in the territory still held by the Germans at that time. Altogether there were 2500 towns altogether involved and 3500 towns in which damage of some extent had been done. In the recovered towns were 48000 houses either wholly or partly demolished. We spent part of two days at Rheims. They told us that up to that time 60,000 shells had been fired into the city causing the devastation we saw there. There were few people living there. Most of them had been removed behind the threatened territory and many had taken up their homes in St. Etienne, which before the war had 120,000 people, but which when we were there had a population of

300,000. The people were sent there, because there were means for giving them employment. But those that were unfitted for work—and that is the mournful part of it—were allowed to drift back so that old men and old women and young children were living in Rheims in danger all the time. About 20,000 of the poorest still occupy the outskirts of the town under the shelling day and night. At Nancy they had each house marked with the number of cellars it contained so that when there was danger a signal would be given and the people would beat it for the cellars. Every now and then a plane came over and dropped bombs. But the people did not then go to the cellars; they beat it to the street to look at it. Finally the military authorities had to insist on the people going into shelter and made stringent penalties on those who disregarded this regulation. At Rheims we saw the little children belonging to that 20,000 population underground, before the blackboard, pinched and half-starved looking women teaching them.”

“By our return to Paris on July 23 the great forward movement commenced in the last week of June had relieved Verdun and the people of Paris in their attitude were absolutely and completely changed. They then felt as was felt previously along the French front that nothing could break through at Verdun, that the relief had come in time and the fearful pressure and the fearful anxiety of the early part of June was over. During that time pictures were hidden throughout France and tapestries taken down, because it was feared that the Germans might pour over France. But that fear vanished and confidence was re-established and as regards the future the strong determination was felt—as strong amongst the women as amongst the men (applause)—that they would see the thing through to the finish.

“I tell you that you could not have the experience I have had without a realization that the citizen soldiers of France had reached and topped their most glorious military history. The sacrifices of the women and their fortitude

under the losses which exceeded any that were anticipated was shown us also.

“I feel and believe that the appreciation and knowledge we have gained of that glorious land and of her men soldiers and women that everyone of you will join with me in saying the words—Vive la France.” (Applause.)

**Rt. Hon. W. H. MASSEY, Rt. Hon. SIR JOSEPH
WARD, and Dr. W. T. ELLIS**

— ON —

“The War.”

(June 5th, 1917.)

The luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club, which was held in the Hotel Vancouver on June 5th, was in honor of the Premier of New Zealand, Rt. Hon. W. H. Massey, and Sir Joseph Ward, the Finance Minister, as well as of Dr. W. T. Ellis, an American journalist and author. Mr. R. R. Maitland presided.

Dr. Ellis said in part: “Mr. Chairman, Premier Massey and Sir Joseph Ward are comrades in a great cause under the Allied flag.

“I have a very very simple word to say to you that comes right out from my heart. I fear that I should find myself too embarrassed to such a company of Canadians as this. But yesterday ten million American men were enrolled (applause) in a cause that was your cause before it was ours, but which is now none the less our cause because it is yours (applause). If we have seemed slow to you to act on the other side of the border, know this: that a wise man has said ‘Beware of the wrath of a patient man.’ There were many things to consider in our land, and it was only in the fullness of time that America spoke. But it is with purpose and conviction that America has pledged her whole life to this cause. Forgive me; I do not mean to criticize, but I see Canadian cities apparently quite undisturbed. You have long passed through that stage; but the enthusiasm in American cities like Washington, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Chicago—all these cities are abloom with the flags of America, Britain and France. We have gone into the war not for lust of battle; we do not want to be one of the great Allies for the sake of a single selfish aim, not because we want territory, or pride,

or power, or revenge, or for any of the old goals for which the nations used to war in the long ago. We have gone in as men given to a solemn service. We have taken up this task; it is to be our task to the end though it cost us every drop of blood in American veins. (Applause.)

“I cannot help speaking to you seriously. I am on my way to Russia by way of China, the Caucasus, Armenia and the trouble there, then to Petrograd and by way of Sweden to Britain; then to France and Italy; and as you know no man who makes such a trip in these times can be sure that he will come home again. I expect to be prepared not to return. I may tell you perhaps something to illustrate the spirit of America not for the sake of the personal in it. I have left behind me a wife, two boys of 14 and 17, and a little girl. Mrs. Ellis is like hundreds of thousands of Americans, tilling a garden of patriotism to help to meet the food supplies. The younger boy is a Boy Scout. The boy of 17, when he is a year older, will go to a military school to train to bear his part in the war if it shall then be on. We have definite plans. Mrs. Ellis, who was a Mackinnon, and that may explain something, when things get harder and the pinch comes in France and the need for nurses gets keener—she is a trained nurse—will leave the children at home and go to France as a nurse to do her bit (applause). That is an illustration merely of the spirit with which America has gone into this war which she regards as a Holy War.

It calls for the best which we can give. We believe that over the grave of every boy who falls in France under the Allied flags may be written: ‘He gave his life in an endeavor to bring to pass the Kingdom of Righteousness on the earth.’ (Applause). It has been given to our President to voice in a document that will rank with or above the Magna Charta of Runnymede or the Declaration of Independence of Philadelphia—to voice for all mankind a new Declaration of Independence, that henceforth no man liveth to himself and no nation to itself either; that all we have and are must be laid on the altar of all men’s welfare. We are in this war to make the world safe for democracy; to

make the world free of the ancient tyrannies and oppressions, and from the autocracies which have devastated it through the centuries of the past.

“I believe I am announced to speak on the deeper meanings of the war. Here is one. Henceforth and for ever the smallest and weakest nation on earth—China, or Poland, or Belgium, or Albania, or whatever it be—it must be safe and free (applause). One of our statesmen, Daniel Webster, said that Justice is the supreme concern of heaven on earth. This war is to bring to pass justice not only for the nations but for every last man in the deep, dark, jungles of Africa; for the most filthy peasant in Scz-chuan; for the poor tattered Bedouin in Arabia—justice for all and a fair chance at the great goals of life. That is why I say this is a Holy War. (Applause.)

“The presence of the distinguished Premier and his distinguished predecessor on my left and on my right from the land which has led the world in great social experiments of human government—their presence reminds me that New Zealand has lost her leadership; henceforth civilization as one man, and with one mood, is bent on achieving the vast human goals which are also, we might reverently say, the goals of God. A great experience transforms a life. Your boys have gone into battle boys and come out men and Crusaders. This war is transforming the thinking of civilization. It is a common experience of psychology for a young girl to be thoughtless and bent only on having what she thinks is a good time; and perhaps the next day she will be a pregnant woman because the mystery of love has come into her life and transformed it. One day a man will be a poor unworthy citizen; the next a upright and good one because the mystery of religion will have touched his spirit. Now today something like that is going on all over the world. We are seeing the end of autocracy we hope and

Our hearts in glad surprise
To higher levels rise.

“This is a Holy War. But it is something else also. It is achieving the great social changes which have been the dreams and desires and concerns of humanity through the ages. Humanity has made greater social progress towards organized efficiency and altruism in the past three years than in the previous three hundred. Not only autocracy but systems and schemes have all gone into the melting pot; but out of it has come a wonderful shining newness, a wonderful brotherly conception of common welfare and common right. The old day of selfish individualism is gone, and something like a new union of peoples has been born on the battlefields of France. You see it in the wonderful interlocking of the nations both financially and economically. That is the foregleam of the new day that is yet to come. I want to say that this is not only a Holy War, but it is also a great social event with God-like aims, bringing to a finish the old conception that one country or one man could make itself or himself a law to the weaker ones. This war means that not only are William and his schemes foiled, but that the thing for which Prussianism stands, the thing I have read on the monuments of Babylonia that that is for ever ended. (Applause.) The British flag is flying in the Garden of Eden today. There has been fighting there, but I must restrain myself from the temptation to talk about that. Sir William Willcocks and his British engineers are planning the rehabilitation of Mesopotamia, so that the ancient fertility of that valley may be restored. I must say this, however, that wherever the British flag flies there is safety and prosperity. (Applause.) As one who has travelled I can say that better perhaps than most people. The war is proceeding in the Garden of Eden and in Armenia. In a few weeks I hope to be standing in the shadow of Mount Ararat, amid the thousands of suffering Armenians, the victims of William and his congenial ally the Turk, and whose cry has been ‘How long, O Lord, how long?’ That cry has been rising from the blood-soaked earth for centuries. Let us go on to Sinai, where the Turks captured

the monastery of St. Catherines on Mount Sinai. They did not hold it very long. A British railway is now linked up with that constructed by the Turks southward when they were seeking to invade Egypt, and this railway after the war will run from Cairo to Jerusalem itself. The British are now in the land of the Amalekites, of the Hittites, of the Ishmaelites whose hand was against every man, and where, for 4,000 years, the rovers of the desert have lived and fought and died.

“Those who talk of the war as only one more bit of fighting for the flag against an unspeakable enemy miss altogether the significance of it. This war is teaching humanity brotherhood; it is teaching poor enervated humanity the glorious supremacy and the pregnancy of sacrifice. I have seen this flag of yours all over the seven seas; I thought I knew what the British flag stood for, but not until that great Britisher, Mr. Balfour, with his mission, came to our shores, and our streets and buildings broke forth into this emblem of yours, did I full realize what it means. Now I can see it all. I cannot explain to you how suddenly I saw it—how suddenly I saw the British flag was an ensanguined cross red with the blood of sacrifice and of service. We miss the meaning of this war unless it puts the stigma of the cross of sacrifice on our hearts. Thank God in the States, and here also, we are ready to brand as a traitor and poltroon and cut the man who uses this war merely to get rich. (Applause.) You have learned, and we are learning, that despite the conditions in which the world now is the sun will shine again, the flowers bloom again, and the things which are evil will depart. British and Americans will fight side by side in France yet before this war is over. We shall have no dalliance about it. We in America know that hundreds of thousands of our best are going to the front never perhaps to come back again. For those who are left behind there will be a lifting out of all littleness; there will be a more God-like conception of life; of life not as a cup to be drained but as a libation to be poured out.”

The speaker closed by reciting the battle hymn of the Republic

Premier Massey, who was received with three cheers and a tiger, said: "Mr. President and gentlemen, members of the Canadian Club, I want to thank you Mr. President, for your kindly words of welcome, and also your fellow-citizens for the welcome you have extended to me. I am able to say fellow-citizens indeed, and am glad of it. If you think of a few years ago, and what this war has brought home to us, you will remember that no matter in what part of the earth we may be, whether in New Zealand or whether in the heart of the empire, or whether in Canada, wherever we are under the British flag we are fellow-citizens. (Applause.) And we have reason to be proud of the fact, for British citizenship today means more than it has ever done before. I therefore thank you, Mr. President, for the welcome you and your fellow-citizens have extended to me on this occasion. I want to express my appreciation of it, and on behalf of all in my party for the kindness and the hospitality that has been shown to us all over Canada since we landed at Halifax; and I wish to thank you on behalf of all New Zealanders, not only those at home but also those who are fighting for liberty and for freedom, and for peace and righteousness. They are not fighting, as the last speaker who addressed you pointed out, for territory, or for wealth, or for glory, or for aggrandizement, but for the honor of the race and for the peace of the world. Let me say that when war broke out—you all remember it as well as I do, that famous fourth of August—I had the honor of cabling on behalf of my fellow New Zealanders to the Imperial Government a message in which I used a quotation which I think was justified by the occasion. I said: 'All that we have and are is at the disposal of the Imperial Government for the purpose of carrying on the war.' (Applause). Canada said it also, not exactly in the same words but with the same meaning—the words of your Prime Minister. After three years of war, of such a war as has never been exper-

ience by our race, 85,000 New Zealanders have gone forward to the fighting line, and from the empire 1,150,000 men have donned the uniform of the king. We are therefore able to say of New Zealand, and of the other parts of the empire too, that all that we have and all that we are are at the disposal of the empire until this war is brought to a satisfactory conclusion, to the conclusion which we all desire and to which we all look forward (applause.) I congratulate Canada from the bottom of my heart on what she has done, and also on what Canada will yet do. (applause) before the war comes to an end.

“Speaking to the people of British Columbia perhaps I may say, speaking to those in Canada who are more closely connected in the way of trade with New Zealand, although the broad Pacific is between us, prior to the war Canada and New Zealand through Vancouver were doing a considerable trade. The war has to some extent interfered with that trade, but it requires no prophet to predict confidently that after the war that trade will be resumed where it was left off, and that in future so far as commerce and trade are concerned these will mightily increase between us. (Applause.) After the war I look to see more close connection between our two countries. As regards the Pacific you all know the position there before the war broke out. I may say this, that it offers a field for preparedness that we cannot afford to neglect. In respect to the Pacific in the future, I hope the time will come, not during the present war but afterwards, when Canada, Australia and New Zealand will join with Great Britain for the purpose of providing a satisfactory system of naval defence for all our interests in that great ocean (applause.) It will be for the future to say how that will be brought about.

“The great war in which we are engaged, and in which every part of the empire is doing its best, involved the participation of over one million men from the Overseas Dominions. The whole empire today is fighting against the com-

mon enemy on all the different fronts. What would have been thought of that five years ago? (Applause.) Who would then have thought that the people of the Dominions would have been able to send one million men to any battlefield? And such men! (Applause.)

“The men we have sent from all parts of the empire to the various fighting fronts in this great struggle are equal to the best soldiers that Europe has ever seen (applause). That is proved by the fact that you read every morning that the men of the empire are steadily and slowly and surely driving the enemy back to the country where he belongs, and from which those forces of the Kaiser should never have set out. Speaking of the empire as a whole, the blood of Canada, the blood of New Zealand, the blood of Australia, the blood of South Africa, the blood of the United Kingdom, and the blood of all those scattered elsewhere in the empire, has been poured out in one and the same stream, and by their blood, the blood of these gallant lads of ours, a covenant has been sealed which I believe for one, will keep the different countries of the empire together for all time (applause.)

“During the last three years we as British citizens have had many causes for joy, and many causes of woe, but these later have failed to depress us. There have been occasions when we have been disappointed at things not turning out the way we thought they would. We imagined perhaps then that the foundations of the empire were shaken. We have had other occasions, particularly lately, when we have thought that Germany was about to collapse, when we have read of insufficiency of food supplies in the enemy countries; of victories gained by our troops. We have thought that Germany must give in, but the war still goes on, and we must remember this and be proud of it, that no matter what our fortune has been we have been confident, we have been determined, we have been willing to go on and each of us do our share (applause). The men and women of all ranks have been determined to go on and do anything

and everything for the great cause and that right shall be made to prevail. I believe, nay I know, that right will prevail, and that Britain and her great ally America, and her allies who are fighting with her today, and who have done so much already, will make it prevail (applause). We have only to look back on what has happened during the present season on the many successes that have come to our troops in Mesopotamia, in Egypt, the victories on the western front, to know that there is no question about our ultimate success. The eagerness of the United States in coming into the war is another guarantee, and speaking for my own country we welcome her coming in (applause). I may say that the coming in of the United States is the most important event that has taken place since the nations under the Union Jack entered the war.

“We have had our differences in the past with the United States; but we realize we are all members of one family, and even members of a family fall out and fight, but that is no reason why we should not come together at a time like this for each other’s good, and for the general good of the world at large. As regards the outlook now, we must, as my friend Dr. Ellis pointed out, take the condition of Russia into consideration, and what is happening there. I think we shall not get much further assistance from Russia during the present year, but imagine that Russia is going back upon us, is going to make a separate peace with Germany, is to imagine the impossible (applause). Though the outlook is good we may have to carry on the war for a considerable time before we shall be in a position to prepare for a permanent peace. And if we are not able to reach a permanent peace; if it does not lie with us to dictate the terms of a permanent peace—if it does not lie with us and our allies—then that peace will not be worth the making (applause). For we hope that the peace we shall make will be a peace that will last for centuries.

“We have got to see that that peace when it comes is worth all the sacrifices we have made for it, that these sac-

rifices are not in vain; that all the blood that has been poured out has not been poured out in vain. We have now arrived at the stage where it is difficult for the countries of the empire to provide the necessary reinforcements to keep up the necessary strength of the original expeditionary armies. If it is necessary by legislation to provide for compulsory service—to compel if need be every man in the empire to do his share, then I say let us have that legislation. (Loud and continued applause.)

“In America there was no hesitation in selecting her army by compulsion. There was no hesitation in adopting compulsory service, making shirking impossible, and ensuring that every fit man should go into the firing-line in his turn and do whatever duty the authorities may design for him. If it becomes necessary in order to show a united front to the enemy we should see to it that there is no division in our ranks whatever, and we should drop all questions of party and party politics for the time being (loud applause). Let the different parties in the different countries of the empire join together for the purpose of carrying on this war. I say it not only to Canada, to my fellow-citizens whom we in New Zealand love and respect, but also to the empire and to the empire’s allies, though my word may not carry further than this room—I say for heaven’s sake do everything necessary to carry on until we are able to dictate peace to the world, a peace worthy of the cause of Britain, and of America, and of the Allies, a peace worthy of the blood that has been shed and a peace worthy of the sacrifices that have been made.” (Loud and long continued applause.)

Sir Joseph Ward, finance minister in the Massey government, said: For what are we all working at this present moment? We are working to ensure that whatever the breed wars amongst us. They have welded their own people wars amongst us. They have welded their own people into a great mass of militarism in order to damage the people of the British empire and the people of the United

States. We are here for the purpose of showing not only our regard for each other, but to express the feeling in our hearts that recognise the fact that we are invincible, and that we are not going to allow those men who, in the ferocity of their deeds, had shown that they proposed to overthrow the civilization which the world had built up for itself. These men must at all costs be prevented from having their own way. If there are in any section of the empire men who are holding back in doing their duty, in being prepared to fight for their homes and their families the sooner the people in these countries know who they are the better, and the sooner the system of tolerating them is done away with the better both for us and for themselves (Applause).

‘Do not run away with the idea that because men are over age therefore they are unfit. Men whose calling prevents them taking up arms for the defence of the flag have a heavy duty imposed on them, and take it from the mouths of those who are undergoing many risks for you that in agreeing to the conscription of human beings you should make it your business to do what New Zealand has already done, as the people of the British Isles have already done, but which you have not yet done; you should make it your business to see that the man who cannot go to the battlefront shall agree to the conscription of wealth, of a portion of the wealth of the country, and do not allow men who remain behind to avoid shouldering this responsibility. Do not allow the government of this country to remain for a moment in doubt on the point. Tell them that they ought to see to it that there is provided out of large incomes the amount necessary for large pensions for the widows and children (loud applause). We have done it in New Zealand; England has done it; the United States has done it; and I am quite persuaded from that magnificent loyalty which I have seen in your country that you are coming into line in this particular. When a man who merely makes enough to provide for his wife and children

in normal peace time gives up his business and goes to fight he is giving up more than anyone who, by putting his hands in his pockets and providing the wherewithal, can do. You are going to have after this war one of the most difficult jobs that the Empire has ever experienced in all its history. This war, excepting for the loss of human blood — this war in my opinion is going to be a mere bagatelle compared with the social war, and the commercial war, and the industrial war, the war of reconstruction which we shall have after this war is over. We must have all the best ability to solve those problems that we can get. This war will bring all classes of the people together and the old animosities I hope will die out. You Canadians and we New Zealanders and the people of the United States have got to put your considering caps on to deal with the altered conditions that this war is now on the eve of bringing about. Do you believe that the millions of women in the Old Land who have made it possible for the men to fight—that after the war they are going back to their old positions immediately. There will be gallantry at home as well as in the field perhaps, and many men will not wish that women should be put out of the positions they are filling. Then we have to bring about reconstruction in trade; also a reconstruction of the trade of the Empire. I say, furthermore, that if we are going to avail ourselves of what our men have gained for us by fighting and dying we must make it up to our men, we must see that we do not, as we have done in the past, allow our enemies to build themselves up at our expense. They must not be allowed again to build up a system of militarism and try as they have tried to get us under their thumb (applause).

“We today are responsible for the future. We have to bring the coordination and the cooperation for the whole of the British Empire to our Allies we have to show ourselves big enough and powerful enough to treat them on the best terms possible. We have got to show the enemy

countries that we have no place for them in our trade relations for the future that can be given our friends who have so helped us in this time of war. I want however, to say to you that nothing can be done until the war is concluded. That is our first and most pressing business. But during the currency of the war you can think out the best policy for the future. Throughout the British Isles and throughout the whole Empire, there is but one general feeling amongst the young and the old people alike, and that is that they are not going to yield, but will fight on until we have won such a victory that we shall be able to dictate terms to the enemy of such a character as the terms which they would dictate to us were they the victors.

“We are getting evidence every day that the war is not going to stop until we, of the overseas dominions have done our part in it to the very fullest extent. We have to add to the magnificent edifice we have already erected and place a super-structure on that if need be. We have to teach the whole world that the peace we are fighting for must be a peace that is worthy of the battle, that it will make an unworthy, avaricious, and vicious people cease any longer to think that they are going to dominate the world. We in the British Empire do not want dominion over other countries; it has been our desire to allow the other civilized countries of the world to work out their own destinies with every possible freedom. This history tells us of the freedom of the seas, that we have preserved it always in the interests of humanity and always shall do so I hope.

“This country of yours today is a factor. Own your own cables; own your own national system of telegraphs across your Dominion of Canada; own a Pacific cable as you are doing; and become partners in a great system of communications for telling to your friends about their business and their affairs across the seas. Nothing of this kind supplied by other countries to you can have the same effect as if you own these things for yourself. These cables

of which I speak are held now in the interests of a few private companies. Make them a national asset in the general interests of the Empire..

“The British Empire is republic in all but form, the greatest in the world, with a king who takes no part in the ordinary policy of the government of his country, but a king who is a ruler in the best sense; and I hope the monarchical system will continue to be ours in the years yet to come. Under our system today of a limited monarchy we have the safest republic ever seen.

“Let me wish Dr. Ellis bon voyage. I hope to be able to read something of all the incidents he will encounter, and from his fine imaginative brain will secure a description of those lands and events across the distant seas. And may I hope that he will return safely to what I know must be one of the best nurses the world can produce.” (Applause).

MR. JAMES WHITE

— ON —

“Commission of Conservation for Canada.”

(June 11th, 1917.)

Mr. James White, Assistant Chairman of the Commission of Conservation for Canada, was the guest of honor at the Vancouver Canadian Club on June 11, when a luncheon was held in the Hotel Vancouver at which Rev. Principal Vance, the president, occupied the chair.

Mr. White said in part: “As your president has said there is not through Canada at the present time a comprehensive idea of the work of the Commission and considering that that work touches every phase of human activity I cannot say that that is in any way surprising. In commencing the work of the Commission in January, 1910, we found that it was necessary first to take a general survey of the whole field. The commission was unique. There is no other body of the kind in the world. After discussing the situation as they then found it, the commission decided that their work lay along the lines of securing the greatest possible benefit to the people of Canada at a minimum of expense. We are in receipt of a small vote of \$80,000 a year, to pay the expenses of experts and for the making of reports on field explorations. It was necessary to adopt a special policy at the outset, to select some special subject to which we would devote the maximum of our money and get the best results we could. We have therefore taken up the prevention of forest fires hitherto caused largely by railways, the prevention of the pollution of streams, the conservation of waterpowers particularly in the west, the utilization of offal from the fishing industries, and so on. In carrying out our work in this enormous field, it was necessary for us to subdivide it into seven committees.

“The subjects I propose to deal with today are most

important from the point of view of British Columbia. I wish to congratulate the government of British Columbia on the fact that they have placed their forest service under the civil service regulations, the first province in the whole of Canada to carry out that very necessary and vital reform (applause). When we commenced our work on forests, we found that the railways were the worst offenders and after discussion we recommended the government to pass an amendment to the railway act, providing, first, that the railway companies shall be forced to patrol their lines during the fire season, plough fire drives on the prairies wherever required and then be made liable for any damage caused by railway fires whether caused by negligence or not. Up to that time it was practically impossible for you to recover damages for a fire set alight by the railways. We were told that it was impossible for us to do what we wished, that the railways would oppose it and that our amendment would never go through Parliament. But the railway companies did not oppose that amendment which laid upon them a very considerable expense. The amendment was passed and the so-called forest fire regulations were passed by the Railway Commission with the result that the damages paid for fire losses, for fires caused by the railway companies, was only \$36,000 last year. In 1910 the fire loss to the forests of British Columbia was \$1,000,000,000; while last year it was only the sum of \$1082. (Applause). A result of which any country can be proud. The railways have become one of the minor offenders instead of one of the major.

“I would like to refer to one or two misconceptions, receiving general acceptance in the west. One is that the use of oil-fuel by the G.T.P. and by the C.P.R. was due to an order of the Railway Commission at the instigation of the Commission of Conservation. No such order has been issued and the change to oil-fuel was made by the railways on their own part. When the forest fire regulations came before the Railway Commission, counsel representing the

C.P.R. said, as evidence of bona-fides, that they had already offered to install oil-fuel on the Nanaimo line. Judge Mabey said sardonically: 'I see you have installed it first where you own the timber yourselves.' (Laughter.)

"The other misconception is that Sir Clifford Sifton had an interest in oil-lands in California. He has not now and never had any oil-lands in California or in any company, or is in any way connected with the oil industry. Furthermore I am authorized to make the same statement referring to oil-lands in Texas or Alaska. Our activities in this direction have been inspired by the idea of protecting the forest lands of British Columbia and the other provinces of Canada. Your forests are much your greatest resources. A few years ago your forest revenue constituted 40 and a half per cent of the whole, but last year it was 24 per cent.

"In the matter of fuel, powdered fuel has been experimented with, with a large measure of success. It has many advantages over ordinary fuel, no sparks, for example, unlike sparking coals hitherto in use in the west. We hope that within a short time oil fuel will be adopted in Western Canada.

"We have the problem of the returned soldier. The most promising field in which to make use of these men is in looking after and protecting the forests. Our report on the forests of British Columbia is now in the press.

"There are 250,000,000 acres in the province of which 150,000,000 are not capable of producing commercial forests. There are 140,000,000 acres of agricultural and grazing land and 85,000,000 for the production of merchantable timber. There is a merchantable stand of 44,000,000 acres. Fires have destroyed 66,000,000 acres and damaged 14,000,000 of the remainder. There are 6,650,000,000 feet of sawn timber that has been lost. Estimates vary as to the stand of timber. Our figures show that you have 350,000,000,000 feet of raw material, two-thirds of which is on the coast and one third in the interior. Of small material you have 350,000,000,000 ft. You may be interested to get a percentage of the

principal trees in these forests. Coast timber—Douglas fir gives 29 per cent and cedar 27, and hemlock 26. In the interior spruce is 42 per cent of the total. As to pulp, you have 241,000,000 cords of wood. At present we are considering an investigation in Eastern Canada and in the United States, as to the pulp situation there. In New England the pulp mill men owing to wrong estimates have been under the impression that they had a 50 years supply ahead of them. They now find that this is not so and that they have perhaps only 14 years supply instead, with the result that a great deal of the pulp used in the United States is now being imported from Canada and the millmen in the United States are confronted with a serious situation, as many of these mills represent an investment of three or four million dollars and that they have only a few years supply ahead of them.

“There is already a movement in the eastern United States to look to the west for the future supplies of pulp.

“As regards Eastern Canada generally the supply has been over-estimated. Therefore we may look forward to the time when Canada will be one of the world's greatest suppliers of pulp wood. British Columbia can look forward to an era of prosperity and of enormous revenue, provided the forests are protected and that you regulate the cutting so that the cut each year is offset by the annual growth.

“In Eastern Canada pulp firms have already adopted that plan and there is no reason why they should not be cutting centuries from now. Our forest engineer estimates that it will be possible for British Columbia to produce six million cords of pulp wood per annum as compared with 100,000 at the present time.

“I would now like to make a reference or two to agriculture.

“There is no more conservative section of the community than the farmers, no one more apt to consider that what he has done in the past is the be-all and end-all of agriculture. When experimental farms were established in Canada,

farms which have done magnificent work—if they had done nothing else they would have justified themselves completely by the discovery of the Marcus wheat. The farmer saw there all kinds of horses and cows, up-to-date machinery and everything of the best. But he failed to be impressed with it. Therefore, at the suggestion of Dr. Robertson, we induced the more progressive farmers to farm small areas themselves under the advice and suggestion of expert agriculturists. We were thus enabled to show that from ten to thirty per cent. of an increase could be brought about in the agricultural yield. In this case the extra yield was practically all profit, and the total extra cost of the commission in carrying on the work was \$75 per area per annum, paid for extra cultivation and for seed.

“We have completed a report on the water-powers of Canada. It is exhaustive and covers 600 pages, but owing to the illness of the engineer I regret that publication has been unduly delayed. We were subsidized by the provincial government of British Columbia to the extent of \$8,500, by offering to pay our accounts to that amount.

We have taken much interest in mining, and there is today a very considerable body of information regarding it. The price of coal on the prairies has engaged our attention, and I regret to say that millions of tons of coal have been rendered valueless by wrong mining methods.

Public health. Of all our resources that of health contributes most to our happiness. All our other resources are of value only in so far as our ability to enjoy them is concerned. We have directed our attention to the enormous toll of life in connection with infant mortality in Canada—a preventable loss too. We have devoted attention to infantile diseases and industrial disease and such preventable diseases as tuberculosis. There is a movement throughout the country resulting in a very considerable improvement in conditions which produce these diseases. We have town planning and housing movements. We no longer allow a city to grow at random, but seek to lay it out properly with

every improvement that we can think of. We seek the betterment of conditions of life in both town and country. You all know the serious conditions in some of the prairie provinces; in some of the prairie towns from 70 to 80 per cent. of the areas within the city limits consists of vacant land. That is a very unsatisfactory situation. Putting aside the question of taxes the farmer is driven from the uninhabited boundary of the city and the land is left producing nothing. The limits of some of these cities are ample for their development for the next hundred years. Unfortunately they have also provided local improvements ample for the next 20 or 30 years, the cost of which the inhabitants must carry. Our business is to survey the situation and find a remedy. Something must be done to relieve that situation by arriving at some classification in regard to that land. Otherwise we shall have our cities surrounded by a waste of sterile land, no use to anybody. In connection with our work on town planning we have started a movement for the establishment of a civic improvement league. The second annual meeting was held a few days ago in Winnipeg.

With regard to fire prevention I regret to say that we have a prominence of which no country could be proud. We have a higher fire loss than any nation in the world: the figures for the last five years—excluding the loss from forest fires—our loss averaged \$2.96 per head per annum. The loss in the United States averages only \$2.20. We are worse than they. In Europe, comparing Canada with Russia, where there are many wooden buildings of the same type as in this country, the fire loss is only 97 cents. In the Netherlands 11 cents; the average for Europe 71 cents. Our loss is four times the European loss, and we have five times as many outbreaks of fire. The direct loss is \$350,000,000 and the fire protection costs \$150,000,000. There is paid in insurance premiums in excess of the loss \$197,000,000, so that our total loss reaches, roughly, \$700,000,000, or since Confederation more than our

gross national debt as it stood at April, 1915, after one year of war. That will bring home to you the enormous loss which Canada suffers: this is a loss of creative resources which from any point of view is more serious in that it not only represents the loss of the materials used in building but also the human effort and time expended. In 1870 our annual loss was roughly two millions; in 1880 it was three millions; in 1890 about five millions and the first decade of this century eight millions. In the five year period from 1911 to 1916 the loss was 13 million dollars. During that period we have only one conflagration, the Northern Ontario fire, which did not involve higher insurance loss. In Europe they believe in fire prevention; in Canada we go in for fire protection. In Europe they regard every fire as the result of some act of omission or commission by some individual. In Canada we usually regard a man who suffers from fire not a man to be investigated but as one to whom our sympathy is due. In Europe the individual is held to strict accountability. Our system enables the ignorant, inefficient and the criminal to transfer his responsibility from his own shoulders to that of the community as a whole. We are apt to regard the man who is insured not as being an object of sympathy. We think so long as he is insured he is all right. Yet whenever fire loss occurs the loss is simply transferred back to all of us. Of every dollar you pay in insurance under no circumstances can there return more than fifty cents to the community. We all forget that the insurance tax is a tax upon everything we eat. Everything in the warehouse has to be protected from fire, everything in the flour mill and in an ordinary house. It is no exaggeration to say that everything that we need is taxed in this fashion, and that we are thereby taxing ourselves in our competition for the world's trade. A Quebec manufacturer will pay four thousand dollars more in insurance than his competitor in the west of England. He must therefore make up that loss by a higher degree of profit.

On the subject of standard building codes our examina-

tion of the building codes of the cities of Canada shows that they contain many anomalies and ridiculous prohibitions.

“With regard to the fur and game animals the most important thing is the so-called Migratory Bird Treaty between Britain and the United States, which provides much more protection for game birds which spend part of the year in Canada and part in the United States. It also protects the insectivorous migratory birds which protect the crops of the farmer from destruction. We are now engaged on a North West Game Act to give them further protection. That country is the only available country for them now and they are the means of livelihood to the Indian. Recently an American trader undertook to go into northern Canada with 200 trappers from Alaska. This would have cleaned out the country altogether and put an end to the fur-bearing animals there.

“We are investigating the fisheries and have established a very small plant at Port Dover to show the fishermen that by use of such a plant as we erected for \$350 they could deal not only with the fish offal but with the uncommercial fish and make \$20 a ton out of it making hog's and cattle feed out of it as well as dog biscuit. In doing this we utilized an improvised plant erected in a cheap way—such a plant as could easily be knocked together by a handy man. I do not know about fishermen in the west, but in the east they handle their fish carelessly, and the retailers put them in their windows without any protection. Fish should be refrigerated from the fisherman to the consumer.

“I have endeavored to give you in the fewest possible words an idea of some of the activities of the Commission. We have endeavored to conduct our business enterprises in a business like way and to get the maximum output for the money expended. We do not entrench upon the field of any department of the government, Dominion or Provincial. Our functions are advisory and investigatory and educative. Having considered a question we make recommendations to

the body responsible and the responsibility for carrying them out rests on the body to which they are addressed. We have had to run counter to many people, but I do not know any movement in Canada that better deserves to enlist your sympathy.

“I can assure you that if there is any body of citizens who are entitled to the thanks of the community it is the thirty-two gentlemen who constitute the Commission.

WIN-THE-WAR CONVENTION

By the Delegates

(July 6th, 1917.)

A luncheon in honor of the British Columbia representatives at the Win-the-War Convention held in Montreal, was given by the Vancouver Canadian Club in the Hotel Vancouver, July 6th, when the guests of the occasion were: Mayor A Wells Gray, of New Westminster; Mr. Nichol Thompson, Mr. William McNeill, and Rev. W. P. Boyle, D.D. The president of the club, Rev. Principal Vance, introduced the speakers.

Mayor A. Wells Gray, the first speaker, said in part: "It was a great honor to have the privilege of attending that convention. There were between 600 and 700 people present. I think the most outstanding figure in connection with the convention was the president, Mr. Gagnier, of Montreal. He treated everyone fairly and gave everyone a proper chance to put his views before the meeting. It is a movement that must eventually do great things for the Dominion of Canada. (Applause)).

"I have here the resolutions that we passed at the convention, and that we afterwards presented to the leaders of both parties at Ottawa. These were presented to the government, and I believe that we who attended that convention should take some credit to ourselves today for having those things that we advocated put into force. In connection with the national union portion of the convention, the ideal of fostering true Canadian patriotism is one which in my opinion will take a great deal of energy to bring about.

"I say here today I think the greatest unity I think we can get here in Canada will come from the soldiers who have been fighting our battles and who have made such

progress at the front. The noble sacrifices that they have made ought to draw us closer together than anything else in the Dominion of Canada. Proud as we may be of being British or French-Canadians, the great thing is to be—and the greatest compliment we can receive from anyone is to be called—true Canadians. (Applause).

“The basic principle of our democracy is equal rights for all and there must be to maintain our rights equality of sacrifice for all. (Applause). We have all said from time to time that we are ready to make sacrifices and sometimes I wonder if we are as sincere about it as we might be.

“Every hour of delay is dangerous. (Applause). The sacrifices that have been made should be sufficient to show us how to do our part. If there are differences between us these things can await the end of the war. The greatest thing of all is to win the war. (Applause.) If the government of Canada wants certain things for the winning of the war I say let them go the limit, and I say ‘Back them up.’ ”

Mr. Nichol Thompson said in part: “So far as the convention was concerned, notwithstanding the fact that it was practically ignored by the press, and received but scanty support from many of our public men, I am satisfied that it accomplished the objects in view, namely, that of promoting a better understanding between Ontario and Quebec, and closer union between the provinces comprising this vast country, and impressing on the minds of the people the winning of the war in which we are so unfortunately engaged at this present moment. The first object is defined in resolution Number 1, which sets forth the determination of the people to vindicate their heroic dead by supporting whatever measures may be adopted by the Dominion Parliament for the successful prosecution of the war.

“The second object is set forth in resolution Number II., which states that it is essential that the country be fully organized along non-partisan lines in order to ensure the

full reinforcements required for the armies and also the maximum production of food, munitions, and other necessities.

“Thirdly that there should be undertaken the necessary diversion of man-power and woman-power for the carrying on of the industrial, agricultural, and economic life of the country with the least disarrangement thereof. It was urged that these activities should be co-ordinated if necessary by the government restricting or requisitioning necessary public utilities, industries or other resources at a price that would be considered fair. These resolutions were supported by the delegates and carried unanimously.

“We made a motor trip from Montreal to Three Rivers and to Quebec and back. The impressions I formed lead me to believe that the great majority of the people of Quebec are more loyal to Great Britain than they are to France, that they are just as anxious that this war should be won by Great Britain and her Allies as any other province in the Dominion. and if they have not done as much as we think they should have done it is because the situation has not been properly put up to them and has been bungled and mismanaged by incapable self-seeking party minions who could not even speak the language of the people. How many recruits do you think British Columbia would have supplied if the government had sent French-Canadians here to do the recruiting? But this is what was done in the Province of Quebec. English-speaking officers were sent amongst French-speaking pastoral people to recruit for the army, and this motor-trip through the province was planned for the purpose of bringing the delegates into closer touch with the people, and I just want to tell you, gentlemen, that it was just like one grand royal procession. You cannot make me believe that even a Frenchman will enthuse if he is not deeply interested in the subject, and so you cannot make me believe that these people would have gone to the expense of decorating thir homes with the flags of their Allies and stand out in the sun from early morning

till late in the afternoon shouting themselves hoarse with cheering the delegates of this convention if they did not believe in the cause they were advocating.

“Every school and college had its scholars and students lined up on the roadside and the workers in the fields ceased their labors and mingled their cheers with the rest of the people as the procession passed along. At Trois Rivières lunch was served and while there we learned that the people of Quebec are producers on an extensive scale. Every foot of land is under cultivation so that men and women, young men and old men, are doing what they can to add to the productive power of the country. Before I left there I read in a London paper a speech by Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, in which he said that every man, woman and child in the empire was either doing something to win or to lose the war, and in the production of the things necessary for the war material, civilian effort amounted to 75 per cent, and purely military effort to 25 per cent. I thought of this in passing through Quebec, and saw the old and young boys and girls busily engaged in producing the necessities of life and reflected that we are not inclined to give these people due credit for what they are doing.”

Mr. W. McNeill said in part: “Let me say at once the convention was to some extent a disappointment to me, not so much because of the resolutions which were passed, as for the lack of attention it received from the people in general and from public men in particular. My first impression was this: that there was no national desire, no national demand, for such a Win-the-War Convention.

“The further east I travelled from British Columbia the more that thought and that impression gained hold upon me, namely that the people as a whole were not taking a very active part in this movement, and that the characteristic attitude of the country as a whole could be truly be described as indifferent. It seemed to me that the people of Canada thought that the Parliament of Canada was the

right and proper convention for the taking of proper measures for winning the war. That was my first impression. My second impression related to the origin of the Win-the-War Convention. I took from Colonel Mulloy's remarks, both here and in Montreal, that the convention originated somewhat in this way. There had been great strife and difficulty as between Ontario and Quebec regarding the question of bi-lingualism. This question was characterised by a great deal of bitterness on both sides. Someone in Toronto, realizing that perhaps some good might be done, originated the idea of a visiting team, if I might so describe it, between the two provinces, and the results as it turned out were thoroughly satisfactory and beneficial. One province learned that all the good men in the country were not within its own borders. The fraternization of the two visiting parties of business men brought about much mutual respect and even mutual esteem between them. That, as I understood it, not only went far to solve the bi-lingual question, but helped towards the unity of these provinces on that question of language. The idea then was that if such good came from the visit of these two parties why not have a national convention with delegates from every province in the Dominion of Canada, and surely much more good could be accomplished than had already been done in the smaller way? The idea was excellent but to my mind the purpose was not accomplished.

"The third impression I took away was one regarding the name of the convention itself. That gave something of a shock to my idea that unity had prevailed on the bi-lingual question. I found that that sore was an open and festering sore, and that it was and is still.

"Then the representation from all of Canada was not satisfactory. Some of the provinces, particularly some of the western provinces, fell down, and fell down as I understood it because they felt that, as their press stated, the Parliament of Canada was able to manage the affair better than any conference called either by a single man or by any

group of men who had no authority and who seemed to be setting aside the constitutional means provided by the Parliament of Canada to deal with this great question.

“The fourth impression was that of the tremendous contrasts in the convention. There were high hills and sunshine valleys, but there were also valleys of darkness and of gloom. There were chasms to be bridged and slippery places to be got over, but none of those present seemed to be particularly good at the work of bridge building. My last word, however, is a word of hope and cheer. I do not agree with the other speakers on all these things as you have seen, but while all the things were as I have seen them from my own point of view, still the resolutions were all carried unanimously, and these resolutions were to the effect that the unity of Canada was necessary in order to win the war, and, as Mr. Britling well expressed it, “to see it through.” We have had in the last three years to dance to the Germans’ tune. Thank God that that is over now. The tune that the pipers are now playing is our tune and to that Wilhelm will have to dance.”

Rev. Father O’Boyle said in part: “You have all heard of Confederation in 1867 and what it implies. The Fathers of Confederation established the machinery for a confederated and united Canada. This machinery consists in loyalty to the Crown, in a central Parliament and also in such factors as make for unity such as transcontinental railways and the churches with their branches in different provinces. Confederation, it is true, gave a soul to this nation. But that soul did not mature. It needed the shock of war and the news of the victories of Ypres and Vimy Ridge to make us know and feel that we were a people standing on our own feet—Canadians—and for the first time in the history of Canada the nine choirs have been tuned into harmony and have struck a chord of patriotism that has resounded around the world. (Applause). I say from my experience of the convention that the spirit of the Fathers of Confederation presided over it. Your president has well

alluded to the different origin of we Canadians, who were privileged to go to Montreal. The spirit of Tupper indeed was there, for the English—the Canadian of English origin; the spirit of Sir John was there for the Scottish; Cartier was there for the French-Canadians, and I am proud to say as an Irishman that the spirit of D'Arcy McGee was also there—he who gave his life for his principles. (Applause.) I appreciate what Mr. McNeill has said; there is a certain amount of truth in all of it, but I say again the convention was a good thing. You ask me why? Because it was the first gathering of Canadians since Confederation where no political bias was allowed to enter; and that is very different from the House at Ottawa. We in the convention religiously avoided that, and it was the only bit of religion in the convention. (Laughter.) This convention was in the nature of a visit. When we visit a friend we do not care whether he is Protestant or Tory. You visit him because he is a decent fellow. We visited the French-Canadian people and we found them very much like ourselves with different viewpoints on some things but ready to compromise on a legitimate basis. I think the chief feature, as Mr. Thompson has pointed out, was the preliminary tour through Quebec. I am sorry that every member of the convention was not privileged to assist at it. In these matters of race prejudice and cleavage between east and west there are dangers to this Confederation of ours. Argument does not go very far. You can argue with a man but even if you have convinced him he will remain of the same opinion. But the contagion of personal contact will often win him over. Some of the best points are seen and he will say, 'I did not think of it that way before.' As the French say, from the shock of ideas comes forth the light.

“The British Columbia delegation held the balance of power at the convention because while there were suspicions and prejudices amongst the other provinces, British Columbia is not directly antagonistic to Quebec. Both sides relied on us and that was a great honor for British Columbia.

Mr. Flumerfelt indeed was made joint chairman, and he did his work well.

“Permanent committees of this movement are going to be established and everyone should constitute himself the apostle of a better understanding and feeling among all parts of Canada. No better work could be undertaken. With regard to the press reports of the convention, I would like to say that the resolutions committee did not want them at first when they were drawing up their platform, and when this was done the press to some extent ignored us. Next time we hope, however, that we shall do better. The perpetuation of this movement would be one of the best things to which the Canadian Club could set its hand. We met Mr. McCullough of Hamilton, in the east, and the question was raised as to whether politics should be discussed. It was decided that higher politics should be discussed, and that they came within the scope of the Canadian Clubs. No longer are we discussing the resources of Canada so much as the better ideals of Canada. The convention will do a great deal to crystallize patriotism of that sort. The war has brought it into life. The convention has crystallized it and it will serve now as the re-agent to absorb the immigrant and imbue him with true patriotic feeling. As regards the publicity to be given, the executive has promised to issue pamphlets broadcast as soon as they can be printed.”

The president, Rev. Principal Vance, who also attended the convention, alluded to the personnel of the convention, which he pointed out included many prominent men not in politics, from the eastern provinces and from Ontario and Quebec. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta were poorly represented owing to local mismanagement in those provinces. As to the convention itself, one labor man objected to resolution Number II., referring to conscription. He appealed to the other labor men to quit the convention, but not one of them followed him, and he got so little support that even he himself had not the courage to go out. (Laughter.) That resolution went through without any opposition,

thus showing that it had the support of all the better elements in the Province of Quebec.

There were two crises in the convention, one, that brought about by the labor man already referred to. The best answer to him was given by the Secretary of the Great War Veterans' Association, Mr. Knight, one of the finest speakers he had heard. The other occurred at the banquet given them by the City of Montreal, when a speaker said there would be civil war if the minority in Quebec had been treated in the same way as the minority in Ontario. That seemed to meet at first with some approval, but when another member got up and said if wrongs had been done there were courts to right them, but the man who in present circumstances allowed family quarrels to blind him to the national cause had not a right perspective, everyone applauded that to the echo.

LOUIS WILEY

— ON —

“Canada and the United States in the War.”

(August 23rd, 1917.)

The guest of honor at the Canadian Club luncheon at the Hotel Vancouver on Aug. 23, was Mr. Louis Wiley, Business Manager of the New York Times, who spoke on “Canada and the United States in the War”. Rev. Principal Vance, president of the club, occupied the chair and referring to the guest of the day pointed out how he represented one of the great newspapers in the United States which had consistently supported the Allied cause. It had a circulation of 350,000 on week days and of 425,000 on Sundays—subject to the usual discount of estimates of newspaper circulation (laughter).

Mr. Wiley reviewed the war plans of the United States at length and then continued:

“Since the shipping board has been reorganized the government has awarded contracts for 600 new ships with a total capacity of 2,500,000 tons. When General Goethals was in charge he estimated for 348 wooden ships and for 77 steel. Since then contracts for 75 more wooden ships have been let and construction will be hastened so that the first of them will be available in five months’ time. In the meantime the government has taken over the 101 German ships which have been seized and which have been repaired; and as well as that there are nearly 300 others being built for foreign account in private shipyards. These will also be taken into service. Furthermore several hundred vessels will be taken from the coastwise trade and the lakes in order that they may be used on the Atlantic. So extensive are the plans for the construction and commandeering of vessels that the Shipping Board will ask for five hundred million dollars in addition to the \$750,000,000

already appropriated. With these it is anticipated that there will be enough vessels to carry over the troops, their supplies, the hospital requirements and to meet all the varied needs of war. Plans are also being made for the building of a fleet of destroyers which are intended to be the most formidable and the largest in the world. These will help to overwhelm the dread submarine menace. Aircraft also will be provided. It is proposed to build thousands of these ships and here again to thwart the enemy. In the matter of the food supplies, Mr. Hoover has been taking steps to see that the Allies shall not starve and that a full supply of wheat shall be available."

The speaker next quoted a speech of Senator King of Utah, and a resolution he had moved setting forth how the United States would not make peace until the purposes for which it entered the war, were accomplished. All the moral military and physical resources of the country it was asserted would be used until German trespasses shall be suppressed and until the German government shall have acknowledged its crimes and civilization shall have been made secure.

In conclusion the speaker said—"I have been asked to say something about the American newspapers, but I think perhaps I have taken up already too much of your time ("No, no. Go on") What then makes a newspaper great and in the highest sense successful? Plainly it is the confidence of the people and the respect of the community to which it appeals. This must come from many renunciations and the withstandings of the allurements of immediate advantage. It must stand in principles clearly formulated and religiously adhered to. These must include independence of outside control and a fearless presentation of facts. There must be no ulterior influence if the public confidence is to be preserved. And this holds true, no matter what the circulation of a newspaper."

NEWTON WESLEY ROWELL

— ON —

“Canada’s Part in the War.”

(September 28th, 1917.)

Mr. Newton W. Rowell, leader of the Liberal Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, was the guest of honor at a luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club, on September 28th, when he spoke on “Canada’s Part in the War.” Rev. Principal Vance presided.

Mr. Rowell, who was received with loud applause, said: “You, Mr. President, have referred to your inability to secure Mr. Gerard as a speaker at your Canadian Club. That reference to Mr. Gerard recalls to my mind a meeting in New York city last spring at the annual banquet of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, at which I had the honor of speaking after Mr. Gerard. Speaking on that occasion, and using the knowledge he had gained as Ambassador at Berlin, he said it was still the view of the ruling class in Germany that they would win this war, that they still counted on the success of the submarines, and that by the use of them they believed they would so cripple England’s shipping interests—her mercantile marine, that she would be forced to make terms of peace. Then, having crippled England and brought her to her knees, they would take the British navy, add it to the German navy, and with this combined navy cross the Atlantic and levy the whole cost of the war on America.

“That is not a dream. It is a possibility—it is even a probability, unless the submarine is defeated, as we confidently hope it will be, in its criminal work against British shipping (applause.) I mention this not with the view of discussing the possibility or impossibility of this occurring, but for the purpose of bringing home to all our minds the fact that this war is a very real thing to us, although at

present it is being fought thousands of miles away. Had it not been for the magnificent work of the British navy (applause); had it not been for the ceaseless watch of His Majesty's sailors on the high seas during the past three years, and the ability they showed in bottling-up the German battlefleet then our eastern and western coasts today might be like those of Belgium and of northern France. The fact that we can meet here in peace and security, with signs of increasing prosperity on every hand, is because other men are risking their lives on the high seas and in the trenches to hold back the German advance and ensure peace and security to our homes (applause).

“Canada is not in this war solely to help England. (Applause.) Canada is taking part in this war by the free and unanimous action of her own parliament (applause.) Canada is in this war as a nation, and as one of the belligerent powers she must assume all the responsibility and all the consequences of a nation at war. We cannot carry on this struggle on the principle of limited liability. Germany will not permit us to do so. We have sent our troops across the sea, and we have joined in waging war against the most powerful military nation in the world. Canada has staked her whole future on the issue of the conflict. We have no more right to withdraw from it today than Britain, or France or Russia, or Belgium. Everything depends on its successful issue, and we have put our whole future on that issue. What must our part be in this struggle? What has our part been in the past? How can we, as one of the nations engaged in this struggle, contribute in the largest possible measure to the successful issue of it? We can assist by contributing men, by contributing food, by contributing munitions, by contributing ships, and by assisting in finance. We have made important contributions in all these respects; at least in all except shipping, and we are commencing to do that. We have made important contributions in the past. There are some who think that Canada has done as much as Canada can afford to do. With that

view I am wholly at variance (loud applause). I believe—and I frankly speak to you my mind today because in these serious times a man must speak frankly to his fellow-men whether we wholly agree with each other or not—I believe that with the effort the Canadian people have put forth we might have accomplished more than we have done had we been better organized in the conduct of the war. There is much more we might have done than we have done, even by the efforts we have put forth, if there had been less of politics in connection with this matter (applause). Pleasant as it would be to many of us I am not sure that we shall remove all the evils of which we complain by changing the brand of politics. Would do better, I think, by eliminating political considerations as far as possible in the conduct of the war, and concentrating all our energies on bringing about success in the war (applause). All the nations in the war have been compelled to organize thoroughly in order to put forth our best efforts.

“A word or two as to what we have done in the sending of men. I have here the figures up to the first of July, and there has been little material change since in one way or the other. In this case the figures as at the first of July showed that we had enlisted 424,456 men. These figures are important as evincing the will and spirit of the Canadian people and their desire to serve in this struggle, but they are not so valuable a guide as indicating the extent of our real participation in the war. The number I have given must be reduced by those who through one cause or another, have been taken from the strength of the army—men unfit, deserters, under or over age and other causes. These number 76,038, so that our total contribution up to June 30 is 348,418. When we talk of Canada's contribution in men it is perfectly idle for us to use the figures 424,456. We are only deluding ourselves and others. Seventy-six thousand have been taken from the strength, and have been returned to their ordinary business occupations and to civil life, performing their duties there just as the man who has

never enlisted at all. We are not even right in taking 348,000 as representing the actual number we have placed in the firing-line. Those familiar with the situation at the front know that many men who get to England are not sent to the front at all for physical reasons or other causes. These men are weeded out of the fighting battalions and are kept in England or behind the lines in France doing work of a constructive value in the railway battalions, for example, but not part of the actual firing-line forces. If you want to get at the actual number engaged in active fighting you would have to reduce that number 348,000 by a substantial amount. How does this compare with what Great Britain herself and the other Dominions of the empire have done? I do not say that 348,000 is not a magnificent contribution from Canada. It is a vastly greater number than was expected from her at any time. I do not wish for a moment to underestimate the value or the importance of it, or of the services that have been already rendered. But all the nations in the war have been compelled to do things which, before the war broke out, they never dreamed of doing. We have to maintain our present divisions at the front and we have to keep on sending men until we have sent 200,000 men more than we have. We shall then have sent, and not before, just about as many in proportion to our population as Australia has despatched up to the present time. New Zealand has contributed on the same basis as Australia. South Africa, with a European population of one million and a quarter, has maintained one brigade in Europe and a force of 20,000 men in Central and East Africa in addition to the magnificent work in putting down the revolution and in conquering German West Africa. Great Britain herself has, in proportion to her population, trained and sent to the battle-line three men for every one Canada has sent. France has done even better than that. Canada, which is the wealthiest and most influential of the Overseas Dominions, and the one closest to the Motherland, in proportion to her ability has profited the most and suf-

ferred the least of any of the portions of the empire—has profited more and suffered less than Great Britain herself. I say this, not with a view to minimising the value of the magnificent effort already put forth; but there is still further work to do and we are well able to do it (applause). What should we do? What more shall we do in connection with the sending of men? I venture to submit to you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, that having regard to the need of men at the front; to the amount that the other portions of the empire have already done, the smallest responsibility we should undertake for the future is to maintain in an unimpaired state our present gallant four divisions at the front (applause). Let me repeat here what I said in my own province and riding more than six months ago when one of my constituents wrote to me. I said that, speaking for myself, I was convinced that we cannot continue to maintain these forces by the existing methods of voluntary enlistment. We can do it only by some form of compulsion and the selective form is as good as any, and in many respects better than any other that is available (applause).

“There is another matter scarcely less important than the supply of men, and that is a matter in connection with finance. You all recall the memorable words of Mr. Lloyd George in 1915, the second year of the war, when he said: ‘This war will be won by silver bullets.’ And he added that the nation which could stand the financial strain for the longest period would be the one that would finally win. It looks at the present time as if that statement might be proved true. Germany, in respect of finance, has advantages and disadvantages such as we do not have. She is more largely self-contained than Great Britain. At the outbreak of the war she was able to meet her requirements largely within her own territories, and she has come to rely on herself more than ever since the blockade has been enforced against her. Germany is still able to meet her requirements, and will continue to do so as long as her people are willing to take her notes of credit. So that we see she

is in a position to finance the war in a way that Britain is not. Great Britain's position compels her to buy her food supplies and munitions and her raw materials outside her borders. She can only buy with gold or on credit. She has not only tremendous obligations in financing the war, and her own expenditures thereon, but she has also helped some of the Dominions and her Allies. Up to the present time financing her Allies and the Dominions has cost her five billions of dollars in connection with the war. She has borne the burden of carrying on the war herself, and also of helping her Allies to do so. In view of the future obligations she must meet, Great Britain will only purchase in future to the extent to which she can secure credit. That applies to Canada as well as to the United States. It is a matter of vital moment to the people of this country. In speaking of this matter in a statement published in connection with the new war-loan the Finance Minister said that Canada in future could get only so much export business as she could finance and no more. It means this: Great Britain will purchase her supplies in Canada to the extent we are prepared to give credit to her in Canada and to finance British purchases. From the standpoint of our own continued industrial prosperity, as well as from the standpoint of helping Great Britain, we must be prepared to give additional credits for the making of these purchases in Canada. This can only be done if the people of the country, by the purchase of war loans or in other proper ways which the government may suggest, put the government in possession of the money necessary to provide these credits. Let me mention one other fact in connection with the financial situation. Not only is that the situation so far as British credits are concerned, but we are increasing our public debt very rapidly in meeting the necessary responsibilities of this war. Public expenditure is running perhaps a little less than a million a day. It stood some time ago at a million; more recently it has been less. Our war expenditure adds greatly to the burden which the people of this country are called

upon to carry. We have to finance our own war, and we should for the sake of the Cause and for the sake of our material prosperity, assist in financing British purchases in Canada. The government can derive the revenue which it needs in two ways, by public borrowing or by taxation. Our borrowing outside Canada is now strictly limited by the international financial situation. We can only borrow such sums as the American government authorizes us to borrow. The Canadian government therefore must appeal more largely than ever before to the courage and patriotism of the Canadian people to assist in financing these great undertakings in connection with the war. Let us bear this in mind that when we are putting money in the hands of the government we are increasing our own savings; we are building up our own resources; we are strengthening our own financial position for the days that will follow the war as well as rendering a large public service.

“Here, again, let me express my views frankly. I think that the government has not so far asked the people to give nearly as much as they should have asked them. In the matter of taxation in connection with the war I know the word ‘conscription of wealth’ is sometimes loosely used and easily misunderstood. Most people, in the use of that term, have two things at least in view. One is the question of war profits, and the other the question of taxation, particularly of large incomes. I want to submit to you that our gallant men at the front, who have just as much right to be at home making money as any man here, just as much right when they are giving not their property but their lives to demand that no man would have any just ground of complaint if the government said that the surplus profits he makes growing out of the war should be taken by the state to help to finance the war (applause). I do not believe it is in the interests of Canada, present or future, that any large class of people should grow rich out of the war (renewed applause). And I would not give them the chance

to do it (applause). I would take the surplus profits for the purposes of the state (renewed applause). And then, on this other question of the taxation of incomes, I believe the government measure this session is a step in the right direction. Sometimes people think I am very radical; in some respects I may be. I do not see why, applying the same test to the man who is able to earn a large income at home because of the sacrifice of the men at the front, what complaint he would have if the government took a substantial amount of that (applause). I know we are told there is danger of disturbing stable financial conditions if you adopt radical measures. But we will more and more come to realize, as time goes on, that, comparing money or property with life, we must always put the emphasis on life (applause.) When I stand here to support the right of the state to take men from their homes and send them to the front to fight for their country, I stand equally to support the right of the state to take money from the men who have it to help to carry on the war (applause.)

“Another way yet in which we can help. We have been slow to realize in connection with shipping what it means. We hesitate to discuss the submarine situation. We all know—we cannot be ignorant of it—how serious it is. We cannot be ignorant of the facts of the German submarine menace to the transport of Great Britain and the Allies. If there was any doubt about it the announcement in the morning papers today would convince anyone. They are commandeering the vessels on the Great Lakes of 2,500 tons and upwards for, during this coming winter, they will be urgently needed. We can only meet the submarine menace by destroying their efficiency or by increasing our carrying capacity to repair the losses entailed by the submarine. It is the one weapon which Germany still has whereby she hopes to achieve victory in this struggle. Every ton of shipping added to Britain’s fleet is a contribution on your part to defeat the German menace to defeat Germany’s idolized weapon. I am glad to know that in the Province of

British Columbia you are developing the shipbuilding industry and it is in the ratio which you develop it that you are helping to defeat this German menace. If you develop it to the fullest capacity you have got you will be rendering the greatest service and the most patriotic service possible.

“On the question of food—but my time is up—(‘No, no; go on’). We all realize how vital it is that the food supplies should be maintained, not only for the men at the front but for the Allies. It means not only increased production, but it means that extravagance and waste must be eliminated so far as it is possible. We know that the whole nation should be organized so that in every department of service; in every way in which we can make a contribution, we should be prepared to make it in order that the sacrifices already made should not have been made in vain.

“When I was at the front General Currie, who was then in command of the First Division, told me and other officers of the same division, that they had been continuously at the battle-front from the time they went over to France in 1915 until that date, July, 1916. One of the three or four Canadian divisions on the west front had had no real rest up to that time. You ask what the First Division was waiting for? It was for the Fourth Division, which was coming to relieve them and to give them a rest. Why did the Fourth Division not arrive? It did not arrive because it had to be broken up to provide reinforcements for the battalions already at the front. We did not have, during any time last summer, a sufficient number of men in camp at Shorncliffe who had completed training to provide reinforcements for the existing battalions, so the battalions of the Fourth Division had to be broken up in order to provide them, and they had to be sent to France. Indeed men were sent there who had not completed their training; men whom the officers did not certify were ready to go into the trenches because they were not properly trained. The Fourth Division got over in August, and the gallant First Division which had had 17 months of work in the trenches, moved

out, but not for a rest. They were sent south 30 or 40 miles, subjected to two weeks of the severest training, and then hurled into the fighting on the Somme. They were thrown into that hell of conflict and were for 47 days in the fighting, 35 of them being in the trenches. Then they moved out of that, all that was left of them moved out, for their long-deferred period of rest. Those who were not seriously wounded, or who were physically fit, were sent to a quieter portion of the line so that the division might be reorganized. But hundreds of them got their rest in hospitals in France and England, to be nursed back to life by the surgeons and their devoted helpers. Hundreds of others, however, hundreds of the men I saw in France in July, got their long-deferred rest under the soil of France, where they sleep still within the sound of the guns. Those are the men, Mr. President, who have gone from our shores, who have carried the banner of liberty for us on the plains of France and Flanders. The instinct of patriotism and love of country which moved these gallant men must appeal to all of us, and I appeal to my fellow countrymen to back up these men until victory is achieved and success crowns our arms (loud applause).

“The Second Division rendered equally heroic service in that great advance of September 15th. I want to say this because I know it. In that great advance, when the Second Division swept forward and captured their objectives, they found the way was open for a further advance. They then sent back to ask permission whether they might not make a further advance. The Fifth Brigade was ordered to do it, and they advanced into Courcellette. They, however, found the Germans there had been reinforced, and a hand to hand struggle took place. They drove out the Germans and took possession of the ground. The battalion that led them was the 22nd Battalion from the Province of Quebec, and it held it against all attacks (applause.) On September 17th a Toronto battalion went in to relieve them. When the captain of the

Toronto battalion took over from Col. Tremblay he found that that officer had only 70 men left, and they were fighting like devils still. So we see that Canadians, irrespective of racial descent or origin, acquit themselves with honor and distinction, and shed bright lustre on the name of Canada. As I visited some of the cemeteries last spring in France and saw the crosses that marked the graves where our gallant Canadians lie buried I could not but recall the memorable words of Rupert Brooke, who himself died on the field of honor:

They laid the world away; poured out the red
Sweet wine of youth; gave up the years to be
Of work and joy and that un hoped serene
That men call age; and those who would have been
Their sons, they gave their immortality.

Blow, bugles, blow! They brought us for our dearth,
Holiness lacked so long, and love and pain.
Honor has come back as King to earth
And paid his subjects with a royal wage;
And nobler walks in our ways again
And we have come into our heritage.

(Applause).

“May God grant that we as Canadians prove worthy of that heritage, the heritage won for us by the gallant men who fought and died on our behalf.” (Loud applause).

Mrs. St. CLAIR STOBART

— ON —

“With a Hospital Unit During the Serbian Retreat.”

(October 18th, 1917.)

A luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club was held in the Hotel Vancouver, on Oct. 18, when the guest of honor was Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, who as head of a hospital unit in Serbia made the tragic journey across the Albanian mountains to Skutari with the retreating Serbian army. Rev. Principal Vance, president of the club, occupied the chair and amongst the guests was Mr. Stobart Greenhalgh.

Mrs. Stobart said: “I should like if I may say one word of appreciation and to tell you how much we women, as well as the men in the Old Country, appreciate the magnificent effort, which you have put forth in your country, in the common cause of righteousness. We have a gigantic task before us and I shall ask you not to make the mistake, which has so often been made by others—that in this war, we are only up against the German government, and that in some mysterious way the German people are not behind their government. No government could have won the victories which the German government has won, no government could have committed the atrocities which the German government has committed, if they did not have the full support of their people behind them. This war is going to be won by that government which has the people behind it. So I hope you will remind all your friends to make up their minds to give their most whole hearted support to their government. They must remember that the issue in this war is not like the issue in any other war, when the issue was probably whether one nation or another gained or lost some material benefit. No, this is a war for democracy. What is at stake is the democracy of the future, the civilization of mankind. (Applause).

“Ten years ago I came to the conclusion that women as well as men should take their share in the national defence. I therefore organized a body of women known as the ‘Women’s Convoy Corps’ to look after the sick and wounded in war-time, and do general work about a field hospital. That women could do all kinds of work in war-time was not recognized in those days, and, needless to say, a great deal of ridicule attended our pioneer efforts. Then in 1912 the Balkan war broke out, and it gave us the opportunity of showing what such a women’s corps could do. We therefore applied to the British Red Cross Society that we should be allowed to help in the Balkans, but we were told that there was no work suitable for women to be done there, and that what was necessary would be done by detachments of men. Well, friends, I jolly well knew better than that. As they refused to send me there, I went myself, as a private individual, and I arrived in Bulgaria only to find how tremendous was the work that women could do there. I was invited by Queen Eleanore to take charge of the hospital, which had been established at Kirk Killisse. It was the first hospital unit established by women and it included trained surgeons, nurses, orderlies and attendants and I may say it proved a great success (applause). Then the present war broke out. I was asked by the Belgian Red Cross to bring over my unit of women and establish a hospital at Brussels. I went ahead of it to make the necessary arrangements, and with me came my husband, who was acting as treasurer to the unit, and also a chaplain, the vicar of the Hampstead Garden Suburb. We left England in the morning and arrived in Brussels that evening. I went to the building in the University, where the hospital was situated, and made arrangements for turning it into wards. But the Germans took possession of the capital of Belgium almost immediately, so that there was no possibility of my establishing a hospital there, since the Belgian Red Cross was of course immediately taken over by the German Red Cross. I made several attempts to get out of Brussels and

asked the consul there. But he said: "They will never let you go out of this country now." But I said, "surely that cannot be so seeing that I am a nurse and wish to return and take up my work elsewhere." He said: "The commandant will not allow you, and if you do not believe me you can ask him yourself." However, I got the pass that I needed. It was not much use for we had to go through the German lines at Hassel, where we were arrested as spies. We had just had breakfast in the little inn there, and were just getting into our taxi. We had left Louvain just a little while before it was destroyed. We found that the taxi engine would not work, so the chauffeur went into the town to get a mechanic to look after it. While we waited some officious German unteroffizier with a number of soldiers came up to examine our passports. These we had shown previously on our way to the coast, but this officious little fellow said: "These are no good." It appeared they were not signed by the hand of the German general himself. So he said they were no good. And then he added very roughly: "You are spies." Then he called half a dozen soldiers to him and they surrounded the car. Then he said: "Now, if you move, or speak to one another, you will be shot." After waiting some time, we were taken to the Hotel de Ville, where the Kommandatur had his headquarters. We were taken into a large room and ordered to stand in the corners of it as far apart as possible. There we remained for the greater part of the day. Then we were taken out and ordered to follow the guard through the town to the railway station. There we saw a train and a few cattle-trucks waiting and some twenty other persons besides ourselves, some of them Belgians. We were told to get into the trucks and in the evening the train started for an unknown destination. We arrived later at St. Trond where we were taken from the train and brought to the Hotel de Ville. At the tops of the steps we saw the Major Commandant who looked at us with great interest. We followed him into the building and across the hall. I was leading

and the Major in front. We afterwards called him the "Devil-Major" and he thoroughly deserved the title. He looked over his shoulder at us and said very rapidly in German, of course: "You English? You English?" And I replied "Ja, mein herr". And he said with a sort of savage satisfaction several times: "Es ist mir ein grosses vergnugen". (That is a great pleasure to me). That was not a very cheerful beginning you will admit. He told us to follow him, and I took up my papers and we went into his office. I told him we were engaged in hospital work and showed him my papers, but he refused to have anything to do with them. "They are probably forgeries" he said. But I said "Nonsense" and showed him the stamp of our society and of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Then he said: "Bah, you probably stole those". And then he placed a book in front of us and said: "Now read for yourselves the fate of spies. It is to be shot within 24 hours. Now you know your fate." Well, gentlemen, of course I knew too that nothing would please that man better than to see an English woman show fear and appear frightened, so I determined not to give him the satisfaction. So I answered him cheerily, as if I was accustomed every day to hear things like that:— 'I am sure you would not wish to do so great an injustice as that? Look at my papers. I am engaged in hospital work and your army came a little prematurely to Brussels '. And he answered—just to show you the spirit in which this war is being carried on by our enemy—he answered like a mad dog— 'Right. You are English and remember whether you are right or wrong, this is a war of annihilation '. But, gentlemen, he did not annihilate me (laughter). And he is not going to annihilate any of us. Nobody is going to be annihilated except the evil German autocracy and the militarism to which it has given birth. (applause). The chaplain who was with us and could not talk German, was getting nervous by this time. His throat was getting dry, so he said to me in English: "I wish I could have a drink of water." And the Devil-Major, who

overheard him said quickly, in German: 'What is he saying? What is he saying?' And I replied: 'He says he wants a drink of water'. And then the Devil-Major shouts out: 'Say it in German, say it in German'. I said: 'But he cannot speak German'. And he retorted: 'Everybody has got to speak German'. And then he said it in German: 'Ich mochte ein glass wasser trinken'. And then he compelled the chaplain to say it after him several times. Then he said roughly: 'All right, you may have it.' Afterwards he said: 'Follow me upstairs'. And we did. We realized that he did not want to allow any of us to get out of his sight. He told me to go into one room, and the men into another. At the top of the stairs was a quantity of verminous straw, which apparently was intended for our use. He told me to get into one room, but I said: 'No' that I was not going to leave my menfolk. I felt that they would not have a dog's chance, unless they had me with them (applause). So the Devil-Major said—with a sneer: 'In Germany, women do not sleep with men'. And I replied: 'Yes they do, if they do not take their clothes off'. However he allowed us all to go into one of the rooms, and we each lay down in the corners. The officer told us that if we moved or spoke to each other, we would be shot. Then he went downstairs. We tried to make ourselves as comfortable as we were able, as we did not know but that it might be our last night on earth. I had heard several times before that the noise of shooting, just about dawn, the shots ringing out, that told of spies being shot. We were just settling down when the door opened, and in came another German officer, who in good English said: 'How on earth, Madam, did you get into this mess? I heard there were English spies here and I came to see what I could do for you'. And he added: 'You may wonder why I sympathise. The truth is, I am married to an English woman. If you ever get out of this trouble, I shall be obliged if you will take her a letter from me'. He was just about to tell us the name of the village in England, where

she lived, when we heard the feet of the Devil-Major on the stairs. He evidently suspected that this officer had British sympathies, so he turned him out very roughly and told the guards to let no one in. We never saw that nice officer again. When the morning came, we were told to follow the guard. We went down to the Major's office and sat on a long wooden seat in front of him. I saw my fountain pen on the table, where I had forgotten it the night before. So I said to him, in German of course: 'There is my fountain pen. You might be so kind, as to let me have it'. He looked surprised, but gave it over. He was reading from some document and I listened intently in order that I might hear our destination. It was about the despatch of prisoners to various places, and I learned that the English spies were to go to Koln to be tried there. Eventually we went to the train, surrounded by German soldiers. The people of course threw stones at us. At Liege we saw a huge crowd of German soldiers with fixed bayonets. The platform was packed with them. An officer came up, when we arrived and asked: 'Are these the English spies?' And being told they were, he said to us—'Get out.' I said 'No; we must go on'. For I knew, if we got out there, we would not have a dog's chance. So I said: 'Our papers are for Koln. So he said: 'The English woman is afraid to let us see hers. Her papers are not in order. Finally we had to get out, and I showed the papers, and while we were waiting, the engine started off, and I began to fear we had no chance. I said to the officer: 'Mein Herr Capitaine, you would not disobey the orders of your superior officers. We are under orders to be tried at Koln.' This made him take notice. "All right", he said, and hustled us into the train again, but without the papers. Later on we arrived at Eupen and we were told to go to the office of the Commandant there. All this time they would give us nothing to eat. There were beautiful baskets of fruit and other eatables at the station, but there was nothing for us. I tried to get some, and said to the captain: 'May we have

a little food? We have had nothing for two days '. 'Food'' he said roughly, 'is reserved for good German soldiers, not for English spies '. As we walked through the streets of the town, a crowd collected and grew larger and larger. It shouted names at us and hissed and flashed electric lights in our faces. We had to spend three-quarters of an hour in the wet and cold. Finally orders came to take us to the jail and I was almost disappointed, when the jailer refused to take us in, despite the remonstrances of the captain. He then said, we would have to go to the military barracks. As we turned to go back, I said to the captain. ' It is a good thing I am rather a good walker.' And he replied: 'It would be all the same if you were not.' So we got to the barracks and spent the night there without covering after being told that we would be tried in the morning and probably shot or if found not guilty, interned until the end of the war. That was, you remember, at the beginning of the war, and it has already lasted three years, so you can imagine what we would have suffered. When the morning came, first of all my husband was taken away to be tried. I did not see him again. Of course I knew everything depended on the individual character of the officer who was going to try us. So when it came to my turn I had a good look at him and I felt he was a better type than the others. But it was very difficult for us, for we had no papers as they had been taken away from us on the way. On my way to the court I had to walk there in the rain, and when I arrived I was handed over to two jailoresses, overjoyed to find themselves with an English woman in their charge. I was put into a cell, six feet by four, lighted only through a little round hole at the top. This was at 12 o'clock at night. At five o'clock the jailoresses banged at the door again and called out: 'Get up, get up '. So I had to get up. At seven o'clock some gruel was brought. You will excuse the word, when I say that it stank, but nothing else describes it. At 12 o'clock it was

the same, and at five o'clock I was told to see the jail keeper. I did so, but she would not tell me where the men were. At last after much trouble I found the military judge who had tried us and to my great surprise he said to me: 'If you will give me your word of honor not to escape you can stay at the hotel in the town while we investigate your case.' Needless to say this was a great relief. He took me there in his car and on the way he said: 'You would not have been driving with me in my car 24 hours ago.' So I said: 'No; it is a very queer world, and very interesting' (Laughter). At the hotel I found my two menfolk. The officer with us said: 'Captain so and so is responsible for your position'. So I asked him to dinner, but he refused for he said it would look as if he was spying on us. But I was glad of the opportunity of showing him that we were not spies. Finally we made this captain send a telegram to Brussels to find out if we had a hospital there. I said to him that he must not only send a telegram about the hospital, but to the German Red Cross. So he called the proprietor of the hotel and sent off a couple of messages. Then he took us for a drive and we had something to eat and a bath and went to bed, thinking everything was all right. We awaited the result of the telegram in the morning. As we were finishing breakfast the captain came in and I saw from his face that something had happened. He had a telegraph form in his hand and he read it out to us. It said that there was no hospital in charge of Madame Stobart in Brussels. For a moment my heart sank. But I did not show it. I just laughed. I said: 'Of course there is no hospital run by me there. Your army came in too soon and interrupted me'. And then I said: 'If you will come to Brussels with me, I can show you all about it'. But he said: 'Of course I have not time to go to Brussels.' And then he went out by the door and we stood by the side of the breakfast table for what seemed an eternity. Finally he came back and said: 'Of course we can understand that there should not be a hospital in Brussels established by

you. The telegram perhaps was misunderstood. You are free to go. Where do you want to go?' I did not think he would let us out of Germany, but I determined to ask for as much as I could think of on the principle of getting something less. So I said: 'I want to go to London to join my women. And he said: 'Upon my word, I do not see why you should not go?' So we had then to go to the Dutch consul to get a passport for the journey. The officer came with us, but when we arrived there the Dutch consul was away and no one knew when he would return. The officer was then turning away, saying that he had spent a great deal of time with us and adding: 'Upon my word I do not know why I have done it '. Just then the Dutch consul drove up in his car and the captain said: 'You have the devil's own luck '. I do not know whether it was the devil's or Providence, but after a few minor adventures we got through to Holland safely. That was chapter number one of our adventures. (Applause).

'Later the Belgian Red Cross asked me to take a hospital unit to Antwerp. We did that, but before long the Germans came there also. I seemed to have a fatal attraction for the Germans; they seemed to love me dearly. In a little while shells were dropping on the hospital round us. But my women took no notice of the shells. We attended to our wounded in the best way we could, and we were the last to leave the burning city. But of course everyone is always the last to leave, so there is nothing remarkable in that (applause). We took our way out of it over the bridge of boats and once more found our way back to London. Then we went to France to establish a hospital there, and I was engaged there in rescuing the wounded when I heard of the trouble in Serbia. An epidemic of typhoid had broken out there and in view of my previous Balkan experience I thought I might be of some service. So I came back to London and was sent then by the Servian relief fund to Kragujevatz, then the headquarters of the Serbian army. The hospital was set up in tents and in the camp we had

about 150 wounded under our care. In addition to this I established a scheme of dispensaries and in a few weeks 22,000 of poor people suffering from typhoid, smallpox and other diseases—every conceivable form of them in fact—were attended to in a civilized way. Of the total population nearly one-third had died; the rest were occupied in the towns, or at the front. So that we were able to be of some use to the suffering population. At the end of September, as you know, there was an invasion from the East, the Germans and Austrians from the North, the Bulgars from the East. The army mobilized and I was asked to go with it, with my unit as a field hospital. And for the purposes of giving me the necessary authority they gave me the rank of Major, the first time I believe that that has ever been given to a woman in the Serbian army. Gentlemen, you need not laugh (laughter). To the Serbians who are brought up in Turkish traditions regarding the status of women, that seemed the oddest thing in the world. But they said: 'New times, new customs, we know you can do what is expected of you'. We went with the section of the army known to be the strongest and drove a motor ambulance. The transport was of the most miscellaneous kind. We had ox-wagons as well as motor ambulances and there were 60 soldiers attached to the unit for various purposes. We entrained at Kragujevatz and I was amused to find that in my new rank I was in full command of that train. But I did not have much amusement after that. We detrained at Pirot but were suddenly ordered to the Danube front, where the Germans and Austrians were, and from that moment we had little rest until we got to Brindisi on the way home again. At the front we received the wounded from the battlefield. In a little while the fighting had begun in earnest and the hospital was taxed to its fullest extent. Our division numbered only 25,000 men, yet for days they held out against 100,000 Germans, the best German and Austrian troops they could bring against us. As we advanced I had a scale map

which gave us the positions we were to select for the hospital and I was able to mark out on it our advance north. When we were about 30 miles from Semendria, however, I found that we were in retreat for the direction was southerly. And from that moment we never advanced again. For three months the little Serbian army fought its way southward, while we received the wounded from the battlefield. I cannot now tell you about the Serbian retreat; I am going to speak about it this evening in Wesley Church. That was a retreat, not merely of the Serbian army, but of women and children and of old men, driven from their homes in ever-increasing numbers. They mixed with the cavalry and the artillery, and they brought all sorts of vehicles with them.

“At Pristina we came to the parting of the ways. One road led to Albania, the other to Saloniki. The headquarters staff had to make perhaps then one of the great decisions that are made in history. I was finally notified that we were to continue the retreat south-east, that the Allies were coming to meet us. But instead of the allies, all that came was a victorious Bulgarian army, seeking to annihilate us. We saw that our escape might be cut off by the Germans and Austrians in the north. I usually received my orders each day in a little white square envelope. Rarely have I opened one of them with more eagerness than on that occasion, when I wished to learn what had been decided. I had by that time gained such a respect for the Serbian people and for the Serbian army that if the fate of my own country and my own army had been at stake I could not have been more concerned. The orders were: ‘Take your column over the mountains of Montenegro to the coast’. That meant that all hope for the Serbian people was at an end. I told the soldiers under my command that henceforth they must turn their backs upon their homes and their families and their country and try

to save what remained of the Serbian army, so that the spirit of Serbia might be preserved to fight another day for freedom and independence. Then began the retreat. I found that in order to get over the ground it was necessary to cut my four wheeled vehicles into two, so I took a saw and did so. I gave away the hospital material. Finally the route became so impossible that we had to abandon even the half-carts and take to packhorses. All hope of the Allies coming had long been given up, but now in that hour of despair the real spirit of the Serbian soldiers showed itself. All through that journey on foot over the mountains of Albania to the coast, with much physical suffering which made life appear to most of us as seen through the darkest spectacles, around snowy peaks in places 8,000 feet high, over passes 5,000 feet high, over a broken road, trampled by thousands who went before us, and covered with boulders, all through that wild country of great bare rocks they marched with no hope of return for them so far as they could see. Dead men lay by the roadside and could not be buried, and dying men lay there who could not be tended. The dead bodies of horses also lay there besides the dying men, who turned their eyes to the irresponsive skies.

“That retreat was a combination of mental and physical suffering. Many of the fugitive women preferred to go back and face death or worse than death rather than go on and face the unknown. They went back to the Germanized villages for they felt they were between the devil and the deep sea, and they chose the devil. Well, we walked to Skutari. We slept on leaves or in the huts of the Albanian peasants who were none too kind. At Skutari I surrendered command of my column and received the thanks of the Crown Prince. Ours, they said, was the only column that had managed to come in intact without having lost men as deserters. We had been twice through Serbia, altogether a distance of 800 miles.

“There is one last word I want to say to you, and that is that the behavior of that army, in spite of all the terrible

conditions it had to face, was nothing short of marvellous. Every step was taking them further and further from their homes, from their country, but I never heard a single soldier say anything that the most fastidious girl could not have heard.''' (Loud applause.)

Major the Rev. C. W. GORDON

— ON —

“The War.”

(October 26th, 1917)

Major the Rev. C. W. Gordon, better known as “Ralph Connor,” was the guest of honor at a luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club, at the Hotel Vancouver on October 26th. Rev. Principal Vance, president of the Club, occupied the chair. On the president’s left sat Major Malcolm Bell-Irving, who was introduced by the president, and loudly cheered.

Major Gordon said in part:

“All Canada knows what you here have done, all Canada takes a pride in the achievements not only of your city and of your province, but also takes a pride especially in the achievements in the fields of fighting of those citizens, your sons, who have gone to the front. Almost the first name that came to my ears when I went to France was the name of the distinguished battalion connected with this city for the brilliant bit of work that they pulled off in the way of raiding on the Flanders front. That story is known not only to you but throughout the British and French armies. I need not refer to it except to show that what the men of the Seventh Battalion did is not only to be found in the orders of the British and Canadian armies but also in the French, which give them credit for initiating something new in the way of warfare.

“I am not going to talk to you about the causes of the war, because every boy on the street knows. One thing I must say, however, in passing is that after three years of fighting wherein our soul has been searched by the fire of war we see more clearly than ever what the causes are for which we are fighting, and that they have become to us more and more worthy of our best efforts and greatest sacrifices.

(Applause). Today we feel more and more profoundly thankful that the gentleman who represented us at this most critical moment in the history of our empire when he had to take or reject the option of war, was a real Englishman, with an Englishman's sense of honor. He spoke the word that committed us to war it is true, but it was the word that saved the honor of the empire and the honor of all of us who believe in its cause. ((Applause).

“We would all like to make peace. The men at the front would like to make peace today far more than any of us here at home. They know what peace means; you do not. Unless you have seen something of the horrors and the terrors of war you cannot know. They would like to come home; their hearts are always pulling them back here across the seas. In their dreams are the faces of those they left behind them and they want to come back. If you walked around the front line trenches this afternoon and put it up to the boys there: ‘Will you have peace today from Germany such as she is ready for?’ If you said that there would only be one answer, that of an absolute and contemptuous refusal. (Loud applause). There are not many voices raised in this country for peace. (Applause). We in Canada know too much about the causes of the war to talk about peace. I have just had five months’ experience in the United States and there are more in that country who are to be found talking about peace than I would like to see. I venture to say, however, that when the casualties begin to come back from the American troops at the front and their significance sinks down into the American heart the voices of those speaking for peace will falter and become dumb. That great nation will yet unite, as we are united, in one great solid demand that war until victory comes shall be waged.

“There are two reasons why we cannot make peace. One is that Germany is not prepared to give up the thing for which she prepared to go to war—her dream of world-empire. There are many subordinate causes of war. We

can discover these for ourselves—they stick out like the mountain peaks over your little prairie here, but in front of all is Germany's dream of world-empire which is not yet abandoned. Until it is we will not and cannot make peace with her. (Applause). The other reason why we cannot make peace is that Britain, let alone Belgium and France and Serbia and all the rest of them—that Britain cannot accept the proposals that Germany makes when she says the word peace. What Germany means by the word peace is to be given some little space in which to prepare for another war. I have in my possession a letter or rather an article written by a distinguished German, written in January of this year. This gentleman is one of those appointed by the Kaiser to mobilize the industries of the country. He stands at the head of the—I forget the name in German—it is one of those far-reaching ones you know, it has to do with electricity. He is one of the biggest men in that industry in Germany, Dr. Rathenau, and he says in this article—

“ ‘This war began a year too soon for Germany. The day after a German peace is declared we must begin to mobilize our industries for another war. We must make arrangements for securing the raw products we need from all the nations in the world.’

“That is the well-defined and clearly planned programme which Germany has in view when peace is declared. That is why we cannot make peace. (Applause). We would rather fight it out now while the fighting is good. (Applause).

“I am not going to take time to speak to you about the present situation. You know as much about it as I do. But there is this to say to each other as we meet on the street though we have had the most terrible days in the past, that terrible day at Ypres, the most ghastly and terrible the Canadians ever faced, those terrible days at Mons when for fourteen days the British empire had the most terrible experience in its history, that was a terrible and awful crisis

—though we have had all these experiences we are now at the moment when so far as the future of our whole empire is concerned we face the most critical of all our critical days. I do not know whether you agree with me or not about this; but I must think in my own way. On the western front—and it is the western front that fills the front pages of our newspapers—the war seems to be going finely. There is a new victory nearly every day. That is something to be glad and thankful for when every morning we open our morning paper and read about it. But we do not think so much about the eastern front and are apt to pass it over hurriedly. It occupies small space in our newspapers because very few people know anything about the eastern front. But to my mind the eastern front is a front that is big with overwhelming possibilities of disaster. We here in Canada ought to think seriously about that. I wonder if you will forgive me if I repeat that a bit. There is one impression I should like to leave on your minds, and that is that this war is not yet won. That Germany is beaten on the western front and her morale greatly broken is true enough, but Germany as a whole and as a great fighting unit in the world is by no means beaten yet. She holds in her hands the cards that will bring her not victory, but so much of victory as to bring to us the greatest disappointment and the greatest humiliation. I am not going to occupy the position of prophet. It does not pay anyone, and one's prophetic powers and instincts are no better than any other man's. But I cannot help saying this, that if by any chance that group of Radicals, the Bolsheviki, get hold of things in Russia the chances are altogether in favor of the disintegration of Russia and the dropping of the republic out of the war for good. Either that or there will be a separate peace. These people are the type of Socialists that would sell their country. They have no country for which they care anything. If such a separate peace should be made you can think for yourselves what it would mean for the other fronts. Think of what it would mean on the

other five fronts. Think of what it would mean where British armies are fighting with all their might holding on tenaciously and making their advances at such terrible cost. Think what it would mean on the western front, Egypt, Saloniki, Mesopotamia, and anywhere else that British troops are fighting for the world's freedom. The possibility that the supplies stored in Russia might be open to Germany is a grave one. It would mean that our naval blockade would be neutralized. If Russia holds we shall not be long in winning; if Russia breaks or makes a separate peace we shall win anyhow, but it will cost us some years more fighting. In our minds we think of what may happen in the next nine months when the United States will come into the war with some effect. I have seen a good deal in the last five months in the United States. I went there to look. I met some of their leaders in thought and in activities. I may confess, gentlemen, that I went there with something of the prejudices of the Canadian in my mind. But I must say that my heart changed in regard to the United States. I came back holding towards the United States a profound respect. (Applause). They were a peaceful people in the United States, a people like us in that respect. We know how we learned war. We learned it by paying the price of our lesson in the blood of our sons. We learned it at Ypres—the men on that cursed salient learned that lesson. Then we only began to know how war should be fought, but we know it all now. We know that the Germans with all their mastery of the science of war have nothing they can show the British and French forces as to how a war should be conducted. (Applause). The Americans are beginning where we left off. But they are not by any means going to get their army and their equipment ready within nine months. Meanwhile the war will go on and we must bear the burden of it. France? France with all her splendid manhood and womanhood. France, gallant, chivalrous, glorious, splendid France. (Applause). But France with a line wearing thin—a line of absolutely the fin-

est tempered steel but wearing thin. I do not know that we can ever imagine that line breaking, but it is steadily wearing thin. On the other fronts if our Allies hold their own they will do well. But it is upon one empire for the coming winter months that must rest the weight of war. That is the British Empire. (Applause). Gentlemen, it is nice to feel that thrill of pride which runs through our hearts when we say that the weight of the war can rest in no place with greater security than upon the British empire. Yet when we let that thrill run through us we ought to remember that which it means to Great Britain. I will not say that the British empire is staggering, that would convey a wrong impression; but believe me, gentlemen, when the story of what Great Britain has done in the war is told the world will stand amazed and lost in admiration at the magnificence of the sacrifices and at the splendour of the effort that she has put forward in this war for the world's freedom. (Loud applause). She is not staggering, but I tell you she is putting her feet down very carefully, she is walking circumspectly watching her food supplies, her financing. She is carefully husbanding her men. There is none of the recklessness—though that is not the word—because we could do nothing else in the first part of the war. Then we wasted our men because we had no guns. It was man against guns, the bare bodies of men, because we were not ready. But we need not do that now. Nevertheless with all her saving of her resources Great Britain is walking most carefully bearing her burden with all her strength and with the aid of the rest of the empire.

“We talk of the empire, we who are only eight millions of people. You would think we in Canada did not amount to much. Perhaps we do not if you counted us simply by heads. But here is one of the surprising things in Canada today. That name has altogether a different significance from what it had three years ago amongst the names the world knows, and it is a name altogether out of proportion to our size, out of all proportion to our wealth or to our

influence. The name of Canada stands high in the world, They know it in France. The French soldiers know it. There is no warmer bond between men binding men together than the bond which holds the Canadians and the French together. The British soldiers know it ever since that day at Ypres when the Guards took over from the Canadians and lined that Ypres road to see that little rabble of blood-stained, ragged, broken men with faces distorted by the gas, going down that road. Broken I said and blood-stained. But invincible! (Loud applause). Ever since that day when the Guards made way for them and stood on the road and cheered them like mad as they passed by—ever since that day the name of the Canadian soldier is a great name with the fighting men of the British empire. And with our enemies also, the name of Canada is a great name.

“I say the name of Canada bears an importance altogether out of proportion to its size or influence. And after all it is the premier nation of the empire after Great Britain. (Hear, hear). And its first splendid spring into the ranks of the fighting men gives us a kind of proud pre-eminence amongst the nations who gathered round the Motherland. So upon us out of proportion to our strength the weight of the war must come. That brings me to my point. It is this. In the next few months, Canadians, whatever else we do we must do one thing, whatever the sacrifices—and we really have not begun to know what sacrifices mean—but whatever the cost to her Canada must not show signs of growing weak. (Applause). Nothing would so hearten our enemy in their deep dug-outs under the ground where they wait in fear for our advance, nothing would hearten the High Command, the German General Staff, the Kaiser and his Chiefs of Staff, than the news that would spread all through Germany and Austria like a fire spreads over one of our prairies, the news that Canada after having begun so gloriously had shot her bolt, was weakening, showing signs of war weariness and an inclination to pull out. Oh, gentlemen, that thing must not be. (Loud

applause and 'Never.') The end of all our endeavors in Canada is the front, the fighting line. We make war not with bullets of silver unless those bullets can be transformed into bullets of lead. If they are not we cannot win the war. I hear some people talk of the necessity of raising wheat and coal. I want to ask you this: though you had all the coal and wheat in the world if your front line is held only by dead men, of what use is your wheat and coal? (Applause). All our efforts must concentrate in the spear-head to be used against the enemy. Of what use is a spear if you have only the haft and the head is broken? (Applause). The line held by our men is growing thin.

"I do not anticipate that those Canadians who have given so much will be foiled of their desires by other Canadians who have not given so much. It is the simple duty of Canada to get her forces together and to keep that fighting line strong, keep it full, keep the communication lines clear, no blanks, no gaps but a steady stream of support for the men in the trenches so that they may not even miss a meal. We have yet, thank God, been able to feed our men better than any army in history. No army was so well fed or cared for as has been the Canadian army during the war. Therefore Canada in this present crisis has a very simple duty. She has to draw together her resources, organize them for the front so that the army there may be kept up to full strength, well fed, well clothed, and that it may feel to the full that we are behind them in heart and will and in the extent of our sacrifices. What does that mean, gentlemen? I do not care twopence-halfpenny for your politics (loud cheers) one way or the other. In other questions but in Canada's war I might think in terms of party politics. But today there is only one politics for Canadians, and that is Canada. (Renewed applause and cheers).

"Do you think for one moment that those lads in the trenches in the rain today waiting for the shells to come across not knowing when a shell may blot them out of existence as is so frequently the case, that these lads who are

ruining their hearts and nerves in holding the line or pushing it a little further in the face of their enemies' strongest and most powerful efforts—do you think that they care about politics in Canada? (No, no.) It is an utterly wicked absurdity to think that it is worth while to talk twice about either Liberal or Conservative in this country. (Applause). When the war is over, then you can if you want to, go back to the old game, if you like that sort of thing. But there is only one game today and that is the war. (Applause).

“We as a people must forget our differences and get into one solid unit behind this united government and encourage it to go to work to solve these problems. We have to get together the manhood and the womanhood of this country to support the firing-line, to support conscription. I do not see any reason why 100,000 fine young Canadians should be called out by the government of the country to fight with bayonets and bombs and some hundred thousands more are allowed to remain at home unorganized for the support of the hundred thousand who have gone. (Applause). This whole country ought to be organized for war. I do not know or care what a man's nationality may be, if he is in Canada he ought to be in the war somewhere. (Applause). If we believe in organizing our manhood and womanhood—but we need not talk about the women organizing. They are something for which we can have only pride and thankfulness to Almighty God. The war has discovered to us that amongst our noblest citizens are the women of the country. (Applause). If we believe in organizing the manhood of the country can we stop there? Where is the logical resting-place? Why pause there? We cannot pause there. We must take a further step. The government must be persuaded, must be encouraged to organize not only the manhood and womanhood of the country for the purposes of the war, but the whole resources of Canada, public and private. Only so will Canada do her full duty.”

Dr. GEORGE R. PARKIN, C.M.G., LL.D., D.C.L.

— ON —

“Vital Problems Produced by the War.”

(October 29th, 1917.)

Dr. Parkin, one of the Commissioners of the Rhodes Scholarships, was the guest of honor at a luncheon of the Vancouver Canadian Club at the Hotel Vancouver, on October 29th, when the chair was occupied by Rev. Principal Vance and Colonel the Rev. Dr. Chown was present as a guest.

Dr. Parkin said: “I have been introduced to you as one in charge of that wonderful bequest of Cecil Rhodes and also as a student of Imperial matters, matters having to do with the British empire. I would like to make one or two references to that before I proceed to deal with the larger range of the subject set for me. I do not know of any place I have visited with greater pride or deeper feeling than here in British Columbia, for I looked up the list of Rhodes scholarships from this province this morning and I found as you know, that this scholarship was founded to bind the empire together by means of bonds of mutual understanding amongst the men of the Anglo-Saxon world. There have been thirteen scholars from British Columbia. Of these, twelve, so far as I can work it out, are in active military service; two have already given their lives in the sacred cause for which the empire is fighting; one has been invalided out of the service, and some have been wounded or taken prisoner. I do not think, therefore, I can speak in any place with deeper feeling, or with a higher appreciation of what the Rhodes scholarships have done for this outlying part of the empire (applause). In connection with the scholarships I should like to explain—and the matter ought to be understood throughout the empire—some facts.

“When Rhodes first formed his idea of the Rhodes scholarships he had the idea of confining them to the British Empire. Later he was brought to feel that the unification of the Anglo-Saxon race would be the greatest security the world could have—a conviction with which I am in the most complete accord, and which has been enforced by what I have seen recently in the United States. In addition to that he hoped he might make a further stroke and apply a certain number of scholarships to the German empire. But we now see that he started fifty years too late. If he had started fifty years ago he might have done something. When the war broke out I talked over the matter with Lord Milner and others. We agreed that we would do nothing at all in connection with the Rhodes scholarships. We felt that, perhaps, ten or twenty years after this war, the Germans would have come back to sanity again and we would leave the scholarships open and allow the Germans, when they were restored to right feeling, to take them up once more. But when our Canadians were gassed at Ypres, when the Zeppelins began to make their raids on England, and midnight horrors to drop from the sky, when submarines began to send Lusitanias and children on board we felt—and we were made to feel—and children on board we felt—and we were made to feel—that such a condition was arising in respect to the Scholarships as might cause serious international difficulties. We knew that after the war Oxford would not want Germans there. We were perfectly sure the Kaiser in whose hands the appointments to the scholarships lay, would not wish to make further appointments. Suppose, then, that Oxford later on asked them to come back, or the Kaiser offered to present them, and one side or the other raised objections, it might lead to a critical international situation. We therefore felt the best thing was by Act of Parliament to abolish the portion of Rhodes’ will referring to Germany. I have been able to recommend that these scholarships should be given to other parts of the British empire. One

has been given to the new Province of Alberta, another to the Transvaal, another to the Orange River Free State, which have come into the empire, and the other have been distributed in other directions (applause).

“I now come to my more direct subject—the vital problems which this war has brought about for the Anglo-Saxon race. It is sometimes difficult, and especially in this remote part of the empire, to be absolutely conscious that we are living at the absolute summit of all human history. The present war has dwarfed everything that has gone before it. It is impossible to imagine anything to match it in time to come. The problems which are arising are greater than human effort ever grappled with—the problems of reconstruction, of social reform, of industrial relations, of commercial relations, of the settlement of boundaries, race relations, international relations, vaster any of them than any that ever occurred in human history before. In them our Anglo-Saxon people have a predominant interest—an interest far exceeding that of other countries.

“Why do I say that? Reflect for one instant on the position in which our British empire will find itself when we come out, as we believe we shall come out—with victory resting on our arms. Let us see what our plenipotentiaries will have resting on their shoulders when they enter into councils which will bring together the nations of the world for peace. What are the problems with which they will have to deal? Before the war our British Empire covered about one-fifth of the world; when we come out of this war we shall stand in a most astonishing position, a position without precedent in human history, a position no other nation in the world has ever stood in. By conquering German colonies we shall come out of the war with one-quarter of the whole geographical area of the world under the British flag, and one-quarter of the population. In addition to our commercial, political and financial relations the war has brought us into close and intimate contact with all the nations of the world. We have planted ourselves at

the gateways of the world and we must take the responsibilities of that amazing position. But that is not all. For the last hundred years, since the days of Trafalgar in fact, we have had command of the sea. After this war is over we shall have command of the sea more exclusively and completely than we have ever had before. We shall have control of the surface of the ocean, only the treacherous under-water, cynical enemy can hope to dispute with us today.

“But even that is not all. Contrary to everything we have desired, forced to it by the circumstances in which we are placed by our fight for existence, we shall come out of the war as one of the greatest military organizations in the world. We shall have six or seven million of men trained to arms both in the Motherland and in the Colonies of the Empire. So you see you are face to face with something that the world has never seen before. Of all the responsibilities a people can have, therefore, that which now faces the Anglo-Saxon people in regard to the peace problem is the greatest. I have had perhaps a more intimate connection than any one in the empire with the universities of the empire which collect and educate the brains of the rising generation, of the youth of the empire. Out of 54 universities in this empire no fewer than 70,000 undergraduates and teachers have gone into the British army in different parts of the world (applause).

“The colonies from the first threw themselves into this great struggle, and the keenest and best from there as from the rest of the empire. The primary problem for us, therefore, is to know how best we can face the anxieties and problems of the future without the energy and trained force of the young who have given themselves in this war. We may not perhaps be able to reach the heights, the great elevations of spirit of such men, but those of us who are left behind must do all we can to make up for the loss, and lift our people so far as we may to a loftier height of pat-

riotism, and taken ourselves out of the petty things. We shall need this, when we lack those forces I speak of, if we are to rise to the necessities of the most wonderful position that any nation ever occupied (applause).

“To our Anglo-Saxon world this war has brought fundamental problems. First let us take the British Empire or, if you like, the Motherland. What is the fundamental problem before it? Your chairman has referred to the fact that many years ago—forty years I think—I may say that I have devoted a large part of my life to the study of Imperial questions in different parts of the world. It was in 1889, I think, when this city was founded that I first spoke on the question in a small hall hastily put together for the first gathering of your fellow-citizens. It was forty years ago when I first turned my attention to questions of empire, and since then I have seen various changes worked out in transcontinental and ocean transportation, in the empire judicial system, in the representation in the Colonial Conference.

“All these things have been crystalized and concentrated by this war in one well-defined movement for the consolidation of the British Empire. And if the war has proved one thing more than another it is this, that neither the Motherland nor any of the Dominions can afford to live any longer in isolation. The consolidation of the Empire can alone secure the future of their civilization, and not only of their civilization but the civilization (applause). America for 125 years—the United States I mean—had resolutely set herself against any participation in European politics, indeed in any world-politics. She has been now obliged to give up her isolation and finds herself thrown into the great current of human affairs. If any Canadian speaks of the possibility of Canada running an independent course in this great world, which is tied together by steamboats and telegraphs, you can tell him that he does not understand the problems about which he speaks (applause).

“One of our great—indeed the chief business of this

war is to carry on that consolidation further than it was ever carried before. Let me say that anyone who lived in London last year would have had the most wonderful illustration of the consolidation of the empire. There was then sitting in London the British War Cabinet of five men on one day, and the next the Overseas ministers with them in an Imperial Cabinet. The British War Cabinet was responsible to the British people for the conduct of affairs and to them alone, to the electors who sent them there. For weeks, on alternate days the Imperial Cabinet met with representatives of New Zealand, South Africa, and Australia as well as of Canada, and held sessions with the British Cabinet, but only responsible to their own constituents. There you have worked out for you in a small way, but not the most decisive way, the way to unify the empire by the united energy of our people, and by the united counsel and wisdom of them all acting together.

“The war has brought its fundamental problems to each part of the empire, and I wish to deal with them in some little detail in speaking to you today. It is just as important that you in British Columbia should understand what people are thinking about in Australia, or in New Zealand, or in South Africa as it is that you should understand your own affairs. Whenever you try to separate them you are losing touch with the one great whole.

“South Africa presents today, as you know, the most wonderful result that British statesmanship has ever effected (applause.) Here is a people with whom we were engaged in deadly strife fourteen years ago. Today of the men who were fighting us then is one of the most enthusiastic of our war leaders and a member of the British Cabinet, and one of the strongest defenders of the empire of a whole (applause.) Two or three days before I left London I had a long and profoundly interesting interview with General Smuts. As I have on other occasions talked with General Smuts on the same question I brought it up again. It was this, and everyone should understand it. I happen-

ed then to be going off on what the American ambassador told me was one of the most important missions that a man could undertake. It was a mission in connection with the Rhodes Scholarships. I may say that I have an extraordinary intimate relationship with the Universities of the United States. I was to put the British point of view there, and was as ready, as you may be sure, as any man to do it. I said to General Smuts, as I said to the American Ambassador, 'When I get to America one of the first questions I shall be asked is What are you going to do with the German colonies? You have conquered more than a million square miles. Will Britain follow her usual custom of grab and hold these colonies, or will she agree to give them back?'

'That was the question. General Smuts was quite prepared to discuss it. He took a map of Africa and pointed out to me the conquered territory. As you know, German South-west Africa was conquered by Botha, and German East Africa by Smuts himself. He took the matter of German East Africa in hand first, and showed me on the map the port of Dar-es-Salaam which I have visited, and then he said: 'Suppose Germany came out of this struggle with power to hold Dar-es-Salaam, and that at the same time the nations of the world recognized the admissibility of submarine warfare, then from that port of Dar-es-Salaam alone, as you can see at once, Germany could control the whole trade of the Red Sea and the whole trade of the Cape of Good Hope—in other words one-third of the whole commerce of the world. Now, that being so, are we prepared to leave the port of Dar-es-Salaam under the control of the Germans on conditions such as that? Put that to your American friends.'

'I did so in Chicago and also in other places. 'Tell your American friends this also.' General Smuts continued, 'that after 18 years of German rule in German West Africa there are only 800,000 Herreros left. In East Africa, where there are eight millions of natives, the same story may be told. These natives have now had two years of British rule, or

South African rule as I ought to call it, for it is South Africa which has administered the colonies. We are perfectly willing to leave the future of these countries to the vote of the native as to whether they would prefer to be under British rule or German. That ought to appeal to American democracy.'

'It has done so. I have never mentioned it to an American audience but they have applauded. I will tell you the line of argument I take with my American friends. You should have it clearly in your minds: I say to them 'You have been living here 125 years under the Munroe doctrine. What do you mean by that doctrine and why are you ready to fight for it? You did it because you did not want to remain a nation in arms. You did it because you did not want to have the warring nations of Europe planted around your borders and ready to attack you when circumstances permitted. And therefore you said to the nations of Europe: We shall consider it an unfriendly act if you tdy to establish a military position on any part of this continent!' Now out of this war are coming three Monroce doctrines, each with an absolute right and with a much stronger right than America ever had to assert hers. As General Smuts said to me: 'As one of the nations dealing with native populations are we to be compelled all the time to keep an army armed to the teeth in order to fight this nation which so unscrupulously and ruthlessly made war on us and on them? America is free from this, why should we not be free also?'

'Australia at the outset of the war conquered New Guinea and the New Hebrides. She is administering them today, and not the British government. Do you think the Australians who poured out their blood at Gallipoli and on the plains of France will allow Germany to come back there and in another war to attack their ports? I believe that if you mentioned the thing to an Australian it would disturb the whole British Empire. New Zealand conquered Samoa, which is right between New Zealand and the Pan-

ama Canal, the great route of New Zealand travel. The fundamental principle for New Zealand is her freedom from the anxiety of keeping herself armed to the teeth for fear the German peril may threaten her from hour to hour. These are fundamental problems that strike us when we travel around the Empire. Men exactly like ourselves, with the same notions for the greatness of their country, who are building up these young Dominions, take the position I have outlined. Well, I believe the United States will take the same view. I was talking over it with Senator Lodge at Washington a little while ago and he said: 'America does not want to see any more Germans in the Pacific' (laughter.)

"Now then, I believe, as I said, that Americans will support this. All American history will compel them to subscribe to this point of view when it is presented to them by New Zealand and Australia and South Africa. Our own country, Canada, the greatest Dominion of the empire (applause), the one that owns one-half of this great continent, with possibilities of greatness before her as wonderful as those of the great Republic to the south of us—what shall we say of Canada in this connection? Canada is without the German peril in a direct form. Sometimes I almost wish that Canada just had something beside it that would make it take to heart the problems of the war, something that would tell it what the war really meant. I am speaking now as a very loyal Canadian, and because I sometimes think I detect in crossing this country a certain absence of grasp of the great problems before us. I think I notice little understanding of these problems, and of the self-sacrifice, and of the sweeping away of our wretched party politics (loud and continued applause). I cannot tell you the kind of thrill it gives a man, especially one accustomed to the earlier and humbler days of the Maritime Provinces, to find that in 30 years a great city like Vancouver, or Edmonton, or Saskatoon has grown up; that in that time three transcontinentals have been built across this continent. But

the enormous things that have been accomplished are only a part of what is before you if only you rise to the greatness of your position. And you have got to take your proper place in the world. To do that you must come face to face with the great questions I have outlined. I said I almost wished, just to emphasize the thing, that you had the problem of South Africa, or of New Zealand, or of South Australia at your door. When that submarine came to the port of New York last year and practically closed that port, as well as stopping all the commerce of the United States, then we Canadians began to understand something of what a submarine could do on the Pacific or in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. That is a problem, you see, in which we are just as much concerned as any other part of the world and we must face it.

“We are proud of the wonderful effort that Canada has made—wonderful in comparison with anything she has made before. But this war, as I understand it, like all the great struggles the British race has made before, has settled down into a war of endurance. It is just as true in political and national life as it is in religious life that it is those who endure to the end that shall be saved. It is the last stretch that counts. Let us throw that back upon our Canadian life. What are the problems we have especially to face? Take the great prairies of the west. You see there great communities growing up there speaking another language. The great task we have before us is to assimilate these people, to Canadianize them, to take the people who come from all kinds of political conditions, and from countries in all stages of political development, and to train them up into the larger and freer citizenship of the British empire. No more difficult task can be undertaken in the world. We Canadians expect these people to raise themselves in some way without doing anything on our part to make them better citizens. We must do something for them and teach them what their new responsibilities are. Instead of that I am afraid they get their first introduction

into citizenship from our politicians who tell them how much their vote is worth in election-time, but leave them to use their own judgment as to the future of their citizenship. Nothing can be more degrading (applause) than what has been done in this connection (applause.)

“Then again we have a whole province in this country out of sympathy with our general Canadian life, out of sympathy with the larger outlook of our national life. That by itself is another immense problem. That province is out of sympathy even with its own motherland, a truly remarkable condition of things. In the old days I have spent my holidays on the Lower St. Lawrence, and was pleased to see the tricolor floating over the French villages and before the houses. I felt that it was a touch of sympathy and remembrance with the old motherland. When I talked Imperial federation there in Quebec they asked me ‘How can you expect us, French-Canadians, to throw ourselves into sympathy with your Imperial movement when some day your British Empire may be fighting our dearly-loved motherland?’ Then came the war and when France was going to be stricken and crushed into the dust Britain came to her help. But the French-Canadians were the one people in Canada who did not respond to the call, the men who had treasured up those remembrances would do nothing to save their motherland. That is truly an astonishing change. We have to deal gently with them. We do not know the reasons, and perhaps we do not always seek to understand them. The great regard these people have for Sir Wilfrid Laurier was leading these people slowly and gradually towards a realization of what it was to be within the British Empire. He since seems to have lost some of his grip.

“Our French-Canadian people have been under bad leadership (applause). I saw that one of their leaders recently said: ‘Shall we French-Canadians with our great big families have to send these families to fight for France when France will not raise enough sons to fight for herself?’ That said about his motherland, France, is to me the most

painful thing that was ever said about that motherland. Our French-Canadians have had bad leadership. Still we must deal gently with them even if we do not understand their position. If they had had right leadership they would be as strong as the Dutch Boer was in South Africa in defence of the empire today (applause). I know that they have recently been greatly influenced by the turning out of the religious communities in France. They ought to know what a Baptist chaplain, the very essence of Puritanism, brought back with him coming from the French army in the trenches. He said that 'The Roman Catholic church in France had come into new life in this war.' If our French-Canadian people knew of that they would let the other things sink into insignificance (applause). On the other hand we must not have our great Canadian life and our great British life thwarted and crossed by any feeling of this kind (applause). Let us have the utmost patience with them; let us understand that they are a people who do not read but get their information about things much more indirectly than we do. They do not think about things in the same way, so that if we want to influence them we must use our influence and best judgment in the most careful way.

"In that connection there is a point of historical interest that I think is well worth putting, and I would like to have it studied by our French-Canadians. The extraordinary privileges which are held by them, their civil and religious laws depend on a treaty made in 1763 between whom? Well, as I understand it, between Britain and France. Britain pledged her honor to France, not to Canada, not to Quebec, that her subjects should have their existing privileges confirmed. It is all a treaty between England and France, and on that everything depends. What is the position into which the French-Canadian people are therefore putting themselves when they say that they have no interest in the British Empire and no interest in the future of France itself? That is a very difficult and

trying question. Do the French-Canadian people understand that Britain and France, having made the treaty, can abolish it, that they can come together and withdraw the treaty of 1763 just as easily as they made it? Perhaps if they knew that it would make them feel somewhat differently from what they do at the present time. I do not know that Mr. Bourassa or any man who holds the views he does dare present the view I have just given you and show the people exactly where they stand. It is an interesting proposition.

“The problem is for us here to solve. It will come before you in the next six months and every man must make up his mind about it. You are on trial. I see you sitting here and listening to me. Do you remember—I do not know how you feel here, but I know how we Canadians in London felt about it—when your troops and our troops, after their training on Salisbury Plain went over to France and thence to the trenches and then came the terrific days at Ypres?—I do not know how you felt here about it but I do know that in London we were under intense anxiety. We asked ourselves this question—‘Are these men going to give to Canada what we think they ought to be able to give. Will they be able to stand this terrific strain? Are they going to be worthy of the great traditions of the British Empire and the British race?’ You know what the answer was? (applause.) You know the answer that was given in the salient at Courelette and on the bloody battlefields of the Somme—an answer that makes every Canadian walk with firmer and prouder steps than ever before. (Applause.)

“The position is now reversed. It is the fellows in the trenches who are now standing in a state of intense anxiety. It is our noble dead who, if they were alive, would wish to know if their sacrifices had been in vain. These men who have sacrificed everything to maintain the honor of England and of our British Empire—these are the men who are asking of Canada today if she will desert them to their fate? It is the voters of Canada who are now being asked

to endure to the end like the fine men at the front who have sacrificed three or four years of their careers in order that the greatness of Canada, and the honor of the British name, and the security of the Empire may be maintained.

“I do not know when I got a greater shock than when I read a report of a meeting held in Vancouver the other night. I do not know the speaker’s name—(A voice, “All the better.”) I remember that that speech was full of the usual political jargon and abuse of parties and people. What would those fine fellows I saw in London think about it? These young fellows are not thinking about death or wounds, but they almost all talk of one thing, and it is this, “when we get back to Canada we shall clear out some of the rottenness of our political life.” (Loud applause.) When I see these objurgations of statesmen who have had more immense burdens placed upon them than they ever had—working under double pressure in circumstances never faced by them before—when I see them hampered by wretched party feeling and party spirit such as has hampered every government in Canada—when I see 700 people applaud these objurgations, I feel sick at heart to think that Canadians will do these things. No wonder the fine fellows at the front are anxious when they see that men are talking party politics at such a time. Thank God we have now got a government which may do something. I have been critical of many things in every government in Canada; but when the Premier has been able to bring in the leaders of the Liberal party in Canada from the greatest province in the Dominion, and the leader from Nova Scotia, then I think he has done a wonderful work for unifying the public feeling. For if we are not a united people we are not worthy of the position that we hold. My advice is to say to the politicians—“Throw away your old political jargon. We have to consider the honor of Canada and to do that which we believe will make for the higher political life of our country so that we can unite on the great

questions and let alone the petty details of party strife, such as men trying to get possession of petty offices. Men must give up that sort of thing and rise, instead, in their citizenship to the full height of their manhood.

“I said Anglo-Saxon problems. But I have not time for them. Cecil Rhodes was convinced, and many years’ study of American affairs have convinced me that the future of the world depends on a sympathetic understanding between the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon race. Why do I say that our British Empire has undertaken the two greatest tasks that it has ever had to solve—why that instead of the Anglo-Saxon race? We have undertaken to govern 350,000,000 people. That is a tremendous responsibility, the most tremendous responsibility ever undertaken by any nation. How have we done it so far? Why did not India revolt? We have only about 10,000 civil servants in the whole of India to manage the affairs of that great country. Since the days of Burke and his attack on Hastings we have attained a success in administering it that is generally admitted, and as for its civil service it is the admiration of the world. I wish I could instill into Canadians and Americans what is the spirit behind that work. From the Viceroy down to the lowest official in all that great Indian Empire, if any man were suspected of graft he could not exist for a moment in his position. The very atmosphere in which the Civil Service in India is carried on is against it. If you could create a feeling like that in Canada, as Great Britain has created in India, it would be the greatest triumph Canadian public life has ever won. (Applause.) The Princes of India have been tumbling over themselves to offer troops when Germany hoped that India would rise in revolt.

“When I spoke to the American Ambassador, as I told you, I said to him, “We have swept up India, Mesopotamia, Egypt and other countries. What are your American

friends going to say about that? And he said, "Well, the answer is that there is no other country that can do for these countries what has been done for them. (Applause.) So if Americans come to take charge of any of these countries you will not find the British people making any objection. I hope to interest the American people in that connection. If they ask us why we are keeping these countries we have conquered, I shall say to them, "well, what alternative is there? Are they to go back to the merciless misrule of the Turks that their peoples may be again massacred?"

"America has her own problems too. They have taken into their land people from every land in Europe, and that has given them a citizenship problem which is not easy to solve. Speaking at the Chamber of Commerce in Chicago, I used this illustration; "I have been in one of your great ironworks and have seen the ingot of molten metal inchoate and without form finally appear as a billet of steel, purified and with all the dross left behind. Now, that is the process your nation is going through. The pressure of the war is testing your nationality. You have now to purify your nation and to get it in the right attitude. There never was the same necessity before in the two great nations of ours, with the same ideals of life and of public life also, that they should pick each other's brains, and exchange each other's experiences, and try to help each other for the security of the world. No man looking at the respective positions on the map in the one case and a people conscious of the command of the sea and dominating the world in the other, but should realize that they should drown minor rivalries and help the nations to co-operate with each other to bring on the day when

"Each man views his own in all men's good
And all men work in noble brotherhood."

"This question of Canadian citizenship is one that is

right up to us. We must solve it. Anyone who does not rise to that position, the position where he can do something towards its solution, is not fit to be a citizen of this great Dominion of Canada." (Loud applause.)

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